THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM
▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

A heartbroken Nepal team acknowledges the Mumbai crowd after their match against England on Sunday. They lost the match by four runs | AFP | P13

SOME OF THE AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN INDIA AND MALAYSIA DURING PM'S VISIT

KEY PACTS SIGNED

- Semiconductor cooperation
- Audio-visual co-production
- Disaster management cooperation
- Social security for Indian workers in Malaysia
- UPI-based digital payments
- Cooperation in defence, healthcare & medicine, and tourism sectors
- Dedicated Thiruvalluvar Centre at Universiti Malaya
- Thiruvalluvar Scholarships for Malaysian nationals

No compromise and no double standards on terrorism: Modi

India, Malaysia stress strategic trust, sign deals in key sectors to strengthen ties

JAYANTH JACOB @ New Delhi

India's stance on terrorism is firm and uncompromising, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday after holding wide-ranging talks with Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim.

"On terrorism, our message is clear: no double standards, no compromise. In the field of security, we will strengthen cooperation in counter-terrorism, intelligence sharing, and maritime security. We will expand defence cooperation," Modi said Modi at a joint press briefing with Ibrahim.

The joint statement issued after the bilateral talks explicitly condemned cross-border terrorism, signalling both leaders' shared commitment to tackling threats that cross national boundaries.

"The two Prime Ministers unequivocally and strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They called for zero tolerance of terrorism and for concerted international efforts to combat terrorism in a comprehensive and sustained manner," said the joint statement.

For India, cross-border terrorism refers to terrorism coming from Pakistan.

During Modi's two-day visit to Kuala Lumpur, a series of agreements were signed to deepen bilateral cooperation across multiple sectors including defence and security, technology, and trade.

During the press briefing, Modi also highlighted New Delhi's strategic trust with Kuala Lumpur. "Along with AI and digital technologies, we will further our collaboration in semiconductors, health, and food security," he said.

Modi also interacted with leading business leaders in Malaysia. "The CEO Forum has opened up new opportunities for trade and investment. We will chart the way to economic transformation through strategic trust," Modi added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Malaysian PM Anwar Ibrahim in Kuala Lumpur | PTI

Counter terrorism

The joint statement spelled out a detailed agenda to counter radicalisation and violent extremism, combat financing of terrorism, and prevent misuse of emerging technologies for terror purposes

India's rise on the global trade and economic front has provided new momentum for Malaysia-India cooperation

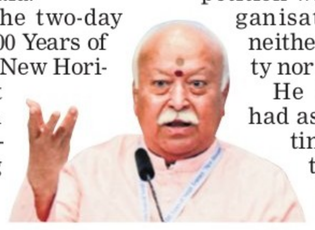
Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysian Prime Minister

Caste no barrier for successor: Bhagwat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mumbai

AT RSS' centenary programme in Mumbai, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat said the organisation follows merit-based advancement without caste quotas, clarifying that while the next Sarsanghchalak must be a Hindu, caste is irrelevant. Belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes is no disqualification, nor is being a Brahmin any qualification for leading the RSS, he said.

Speaking at the two-day lecture series "100 Years of Sangh Journey - New Horizons," Bhagwat said visitors from different countries are studying RSS activities to replicate the model for their youth. He emphasised that RSS is apolitical and not opposed to anyone, describing "Hindu" as an adjective encompassing all Indians rather than a noun.



The Mumbai lecture saw a posse of Bollywood bigwigs in attendance, including Ranbir Kapoor, Akshay Kumar, Salman Khan, Vicky Kaushal, BJP MP Hema Malini and others.

Speaking about the Sangh's journey, Bhagwat said: "The Sangh has not emerged in competition with any other organisation.The Sangh neither seeks popularity nor power."

He said the Sangh had asked him to continue working, and that he would step down whenever it asks him to.

Navy's marine engine programme likely to get govt nod this week

JAVARIA RANA @ New Delhi

THE Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is likely to approve an indigenous marine engine development programme for the Indian Navy when it meets later this week, this newspaper has learnt. The proposal is expected to be taken up under the Make-I category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, which provides government funding support for indigenous design and development of critical defence technologies.

Sources said four prototype engines are planned, with a minimum order quantity of 40 engines envisaged initially. The Navy is looking at developing a marine gas turbine in the 24-28 MW power class for main propulsion systems used on large surface combatants such as destroyers and frigates. At present, the Navy's frontline warships rely on foreign-origin gas turbine-based propulsion systems from Ukraine's Zorya-Mashproekt and US firm General Electric. Sources said the overall programme would need ₹4,000-5,000 crore investment, with the government expected to cover up to 70% of prototype development cost.

FARE HIKE

METRO PUTS IT ON HOLD

The proposed 5 per cent fare hike was scheduled to take effect Monday. Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited has now kept it on hold until further orders. A final decision would be taken after a review by the Board. It is said BMRCL kept the fare hike on hold following instructions from the Central government | P2

Prehistoric human skeletons excavated in Ballari district

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR @ Ballari

RESEARCHERS have found two prehistoric human skeletons during an ongoing excavation at Gaudra Moole Hill in Tekkalakote town of Ballari district.

The excavation is being carried out by a team led by Dr Namita S Sugandhi, a professor at Hartwick College in the US who is also the co-director of the project.

During excavation work last week, human bones were initially noticed beneath the soil. Further digging led to the unearthing of two complete human skeletons, each measuring approximately 5.5 feet in length, found lying side by side. P7

One of the skeletons excavated at Gaudra Moole Hill in Ballari district

Tools found at site

Pottery fragments, microlithic tools and evidence related to early human tool use found around the skeletons

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 09.02.2026 • Year: Vishwavasu • Ayana: Uttharayana
• Ritu: Sisira • Masa: Magha • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ashtami (Wholeday)
• Nakshatra: Vishaka (Wholeday) • Moon in Vrischika Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 14°C | MAX 30°C
FORECAST
Cloudy

Sunrise 06.44 am
Sunset 06.23 pm
Moonrise 12.44 am
Moonset 11.35 pm

METRO FARE HIKE ON HOLD AFTER PUBLIC, POLITICAL BACKLASH

BMRCL says final decision would be taken after review by the Board

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

FOLLOWING public outrage and sharp political opposition, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) on Sunday announced that the proposed 5 per cent fare hike, scheduled to take effect Monday, was on hold until further orders.

BMRCL issued a statement saying the February 5 media release announcing the fare revision had been kept on hold until further orders, and a final decision would be taken after a review by the Board. It is said BMRCL kept the fare hike on hold following instructions from the Central government.

In a media release issued on February 5, BMRCL had stated that an annual automatic fare revision of up to 5 per cent would be implemented from February 9, in line with recommendations of the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC). The corporation had said the revision was mandatory under the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, and was binding on BMRCL.

Explaining the rationale, BMRCL said FFC had observed that fares were revised after a long gap and to avoid steep hikes in the future, the committee recommended an annual fare revision. As per this formula, the annual revision was due one year after implementation of the fare hike on February 9, 2025. The proposed increase ranged from Re 1 to Rs 5 across the 10 fare zones on the 96.10km Metro network.

The announcement had triggered strong opposition by BJP leaders, who called the hike an unfair burden on commuters and said it would further cement Bengaluru Metro's position as the costliest in the country. They also highlighted that the alleged anomalies flagged in the FFC report had not been addressed.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said on Saturday that he spoke to Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar, seeking intervention, and according to him, Khattar assured him the fare hike would be put on hold temporarily and the anomalies would be reviewed. Surya also indicated that a fresh FFC could be considered if the state government initiated the process.

Meanwhile, anticipating protests and gatherings at Metro stations ahead of the earlier planned rollout, BMRCL had already approached police seeking security arrangements as a precautionary measure.

State govt falsely blaming Centre: HDK

Union Minister for Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy said the state government is falsely blaming the Centre on the Bengaluru Metro fare hike. "Why create conflict with the Centre? In a federal system, there must be a healthy relationship between the Centre and the state. The state government should stop pointing fingers at the Centre for everything. Standing on the streets and abusing the PM, and then sending letters, is a behaviour the state government must change," he said.

BJP following convenient logic, says Priyank

Taking a swipe at the BJP, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge said the opposition is following a "convenient logic" of crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi even for a one-metre extension of a Metro line, while blaming the state government for every one rupee increase in ticket fares. In a social media post, he said Metro projects are to be funded equally by the Centre and the state, but alleged that the Centre failed to release its full 50% share, forcing the Karnataka government to bear nearly 87% of the cost of Metro expansion.

Tejasvi drums up support from Metro commuters

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

BEFORE BMRCL temporarily put the fare hike on hold, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya had earlier in the day taken his protest against the proposed annual revision of Bengaluru Metro fares directly to commuters. He interacted with passengers at RV Road Metro Station, wearing a T-shirt reading 'Mr CM, Cut the Drama' and '#FareHikeBeda' (Don't hike the fare).

Surya alleged that the Congress government was misleading the public by claiming it had not sought a fare revision. To counter this, he printed excerpts from the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) report on his T-shirt, which he said showed that officials from the state's Finance and Urban Development departments had sought an upward and automatic annual fare revision before the committee.

Reading out from the report, Surya said State officials cited the government's weak financial position and its inability to continue providing "shadow cash support" to BMRCL, including loss of reimbursement and interest-free loan support. He claimed the withdrawal of this support triggered steep fare hikes and proposals for annual increases, shifting the financial burden on to commuters.

Interacting with passengers, Surya heard concerns about the hardship caused by the proposed 5 per cent fare hike that was scheduled to take effect from Monday, and demanded that the State government reconstitute the FFC to rationalise fares.

Warning of political consequences, Surya said Bengalureans would respond in the upcoming GBA elections if commuters' concerns continue to be ignored.

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya interacts with passengers at RV Road Metro Station on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

HEALTHY HABITS

HCL employees and volunteers take part in a cyclothon, organised to create awareness on the benefits of cycling, on NICE Road on Sunday | EXPRESS

GBA identifies 463 stray dog feeding spots, feeders rue random selection

AKNISREE KARTHIK @ Bengaluru

WHILE all five corporations under Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have identified a total of 463 'dog feeding spots' in their jurisdictions, animal lovers and feeders rue that the spots were randomly selected and the exercise was not conducted scientifically. They argue that dogs are territorial in nature and need multiple feeding spots, even if they belong to the same area, and the spots must be identified in association with feeders and animal lovers.

Animal feeders said in many areas, the spots are on busy main roads, next to garbage dumping spots, urination spots and vacant sites. Bengaluru-based animal activist Arun Prasad said the total identified spots in the city are miniscule and took a dig at the GBA, stating that the exercise was on the lines of setting up Indira Canteens, which were opened in every ward, irrespective of whether people would come there to eat.

Objecting to the randomly marked dog feeding spots, Prasad said they are not identified as per the court order and that GBA took up the entire exercise just to show some compliance with the order.

A signboard designates a dog feeding spot identified by the Greater Bengaluru Authority | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FEEDING SPOTS IN CITY CORPORATIONS

Bengaluru East	150
Bengaluru Central	90
Bengaluru West	85
Bengaluru North	70
Bengaluru South	68
463 TOTAL	

Sharing an example of a feeding spot identified by Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) in Wilson Garden, Prasad said, "They have identified a spot on 10th Cross Road, near Hombegowda Boys High School, where there are no stray dogs. GBA officials should have marked the spots based on inputs from regular dog feeders. Having one feeding spot for all the area dogs put together will not help, as dogs are territorial and do not let other dogs enter their territory."

Aparna Rai, a dog feeder and resident of Whitefield's Karumariamman Road, said, "I demanded that at least three dog feeding spots be identified, but we got only one. However, that lone feeding spot is also gone as some people have removed the 'feeding spot' board and are not allowing us to feed dogs."

For areas falling under BCCC, only 90 feeding spots are identified. Where should the other hundreds of stray dogs be fed, questioned Prasad. Arguing that dogs are territorial, and must be fed within their territories, he said, "Multiple feeding spots must be identified and only that can ensure that dogs are fed regularly and their aggression and dog bite incidents are curbed, which is the sole intention of the initiative."

PG Medical: Date to enter options extended till Feb 10

The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) has extended the last date to enter options for seat allotment in the 3rd round of admission to Postgraduate (PG) medical courses till 8 am on February 10. The provisional seat allotment will be released at 5 pm on February 10, the final seat allotment result will be announced after 1 pm on February 11. Candidates with allotted seats must pay the fees and download the admission order between February 12 and 13. They must report to the allotted colleges by February 14. ENS

Budding scientists get Raman award

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE Innovation and Science Promotion Foundation (ISPF), in collaboration with the Raman Research Institute Trust (RRIT), held the final round of the eighth edition of the Raman Young Science Innovator (RYSI) Award on Sunday. Two young students from Bengaluru made it to the final round, in the intermediate and senior levels, with nine students across three categories – junior, intermediate and senior – being awarded.

Dyuthi Mallya B, a Class 7 student of Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidya Mandir (SSRVM) came second in the intermediate category and Madhura SS (Class 8) from Vidyashilp Academy came second in the senior category.

The annual national-level science competition aimed to ignite curiosity and innovation among young school students from Classes 3 to 10. Over 3,500 students from across India participated in the three-stage competition, and more than 100 finalists were selected. The selected participants were tasked with creating hands-on science activities demonstrating scientific principles through working models, toys, or experiments.

The junior category participants were tasked with designing working boat models, experimenting with weight reduction, load-carrying capacity, speed and manoeuvrability. Intermediate participants built and optimised thermal insulation models, strategically using limited materials to minimise heat loss over time. Senior students conducted electroplating to achieve uniform, durable metal coatings and controlled deposition patterns.

The eighth edition of the competition was the sixth time Madhura had participated, and the fourth time she had won an award. "This always is a special feeling. I will definitely participate again next year," she said.

STUDENTS PROTEST 700% FEE HIKE AT IISc

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

MEMBERS of the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) on Sunday protested against the recent decision by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to drastically increase its tuition fees.

They said that the agitation comes in response to the institute's announcement that fees for the Bachelor of Science (BS) programme would be hiked from Rs 10,000 to a staggering Rs 80,000 per annum from the 2026-27 academic year — a 700% increase that the protesters labelled as a "direct assault on the accessibility of higher education". Student activists gathered at Malleswaram and raised slogans against "commercialization" of premiere research institutions.

AIDSO state treasurer Subhash BJ highlighted that such a sharp escalation would effectively shut the doors of the country's top science institute for students hailing from poor and middle-class backgrounds.

The protesters demanded an immediate rollback of the fee hike and urged the central government to increase funding for research institutes rather than forcing them to generate revenue through student fees.

EXPRESS READ

North City Corpn preps for Swachh survey

Bengaluru: Ahead of the Swachh Survekshan Survey for 2025-26, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar called upon officers, marshals and pourakarmikas to carry out their work effectively. During a meeting at the Mini Vidhana Soudha in Yelahanka on Sunday, Kumar said, "The five city corporations are participating in the survey and BNCC needs to perform well. Scoring process of this survey will be done in the next two months so all employees of the corporation should join hands." To facilitate pourakarmikas in cleaning work, new mechanised machines have been brought into use within BNCC jurisdiction, he said. ENS

Horoscopes By Holiday

HOLIDAY MATHIS

09th February : Suspicious Moon The Scorpio moon arouses suspicions, especially when offers seem too good to be true. Dazzling distractions are part of the trickery. What's invisible because it's too small, behind the scenes or in the future? Ask questions about the unseen: How do they behave when no one is watching? What are the hidden fees? As the proverb states, "A fool judges people by the presents they give him."

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Today, you'll gravitate toward people who nudge you forward, inspire you to work harder and catalyze your becoming. They might not be the nicest or easiest to be around, but that's not what matters now because you're in a phase of growth, not comfort.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 - May 20)
It's simple emotional math today: Positive emotions give you energy, and negative emotions drain energy. You can't choose your feelings, but you can put yourself in the mindset and environment most conducive to feeling good.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21)
You're thinking a lot about how to make your daily life work better, and one solution keeps coming to mind. In theory, it could work. The only way to tell is to apply it. Test your idea in tiny, low-risk ways first.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22)
Some challenges unravel slowly if you tease them apart, strand by strand. Today's are better approached as the landscaper does, snipping, cutting and mowing right through. Keep moving until it's beautiful.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)
There are seasons when it's best to say yes to every invite, opportunity and offer, and there are times like now when more discretion is called for. You've paid your dues and can hold out for your specific preferences and vision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)
Countless similar moments blur together, but when something brings up a feeling in you, a memory is born, too. Someone who is emotionally available can turn ordinary moments into a vivid experience. Their access to feeling invites your own.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23)
Your social intuition will serve you well. You'll sense when someone is telling the truth and when they aren't. You can build on what's real. It's safe to leave the rest alone. Falsehoods tend to collapse under their own weight.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21)
It's a strong balance: feeling liberated from the need to own more, yet still committed to tending what's already yours. The care you put into your things today saves you time and money later. Bonus: Someone is watching with respect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Someone has you guarding your heart. But how do you protect something as invisible and volatile as a feeling? Today, it may be impossible to stay ahead of it. But if you agree to feel whatever comes up, it's you who will be ahead.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)
Everyone knows you're responsible, but it would actually be irresponsible to carry everything at once. Know your limits. A pause strengthens the foundation you've built. Even small rests renew your energy and focus.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)
People get in sync with your ideas, feelings and rhythms. It's as though there's a drum line following you around, adding power, excitement and a steady beat that you and everyone around you can move to.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar 20)
People don't have to be "on" to be accepted by you. They sense it, and this unspoken permission to relax and be themselves somehow still inspires people to impress you. It's funny how comfort rouses vitality and excitement.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

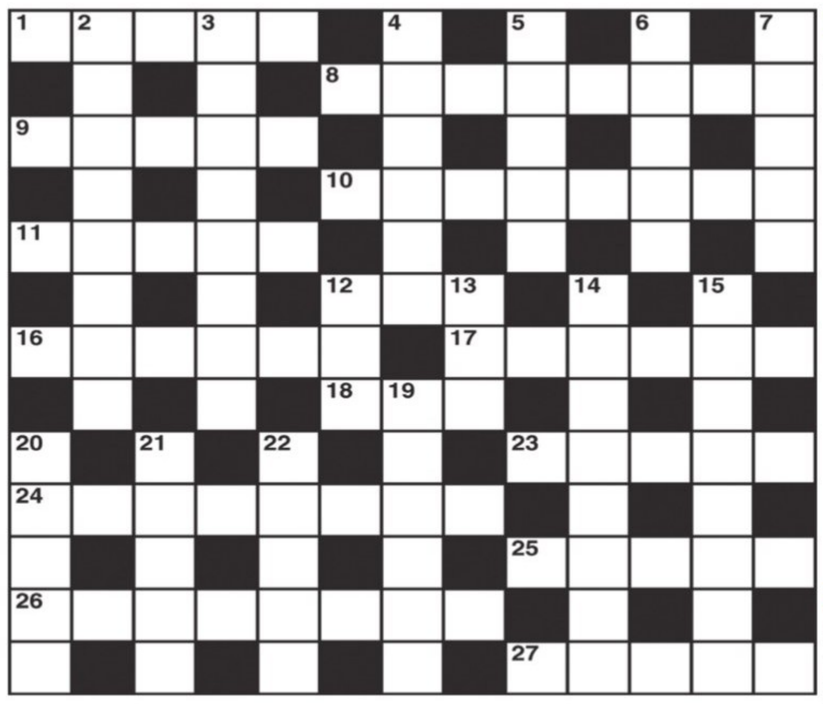
2			6		3			
	4			2				5
3		9					7	
8				5	2		4	
		3				5		
	1		9	3				7
	7					4		1
1				9			5	
			7		1			8

8	4	5	7	6	9	3	2	1
1	9	6	5	3	2	4	7	8
7	2	3	1	4	8	5	6	9
2	3	7	6	9	4	8	1	5
5	8	1	2	7	3	9	4	6
9	6	4	8	5	1	7	3	2
4	1	8	9	2	7	6	5	3
3	5	9	4	1	6	2	8	7
6	7	2	3	8	5	1	9	4

SUDOKU HARD

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Spring tide say (5)
8 Spring maintained in good order (4,4)
9 Stone made entrance (5)
10 Storage place for a trophy near the table (8)
11 At home help is given back to the country (5)
12 Deep black stream (3)
16 Complaint about Ma's hat (6)
17 Dead or possibly worshipped (6)
18 Be sociable and create a stir (3)
23 Admit pound note is forged (3,2)
24 Shanties add spice to Gilbert and Sullivan (3,5)
25 Flat country lacking beauty (5)
26 New form of travel in space (8)
27 Solid in form, they may have fragile footing (5)

DOWN
2 Trio sang composition of this musician (8)
3 Left in error? (3,5)
4 Read through and turn to account (6)
5 All countries appear bent on it (5)
6 Don't allow an untidy beard (5)
7 Room for some learning (5)
12 Preserve congestion (3)
13 It has to be paid when I leave the cab (3)
14 The mannequin went ahead and posed (8)
15 Something to remind one in passing (8)
19 Dressed up and ready to go? (2,4)
20 Moving out of bed (5)
21 It may be called for as the situation changes (5)
22 Meals provided for the directors (5)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Manipulate, 6 Clef, 10 Dogma, 11 Destroyer, 12 Stampede, 13 Tarot, 15 Maidens, 17 Aerosol, 19 Re-enter, 21 Seaways, 22 Pasta, 24 Pea green, 27 Principal, 28 Chair, 29 Rank, 30 Crowd scene.

Down: 1 Made, 2 Night life, 3 Psalm, 4 Ladders, 5 Tessera, 7 Layer, 8 First flush, 9 Criteria, 14 Emery paper, 16 Entrance, 18 Space race, 20 Repaper, 21 Swallow, 23 Scion, 25 Racks, 26 Brie.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

TNUYT

DEUGJ

VIDEID

STAWYE

What recipe are you using? Are you making Buffalo or garlic Parmesan?
I think I'm going to try something new and combine a bunch of these.
12/15
SHE WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE CHICKEN APPETIZER RECIPES AND DECIDED TO ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: SWIFT DROOP HEALTH FIASCO
Answer: The subdivision they had chosen for their dream home had — LOTS TO OFFER

Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium on Sunday hosted its monthly Science Club lecture for February, delivered by the planetarium's director BR Guruprasad. In a freewheeling talk on 'ARTEMIS - Taking humans back to the moon', Guruprasad spoke on the postponed launch of the Artemis II spacecraft, the aim of the USA's Artemis project and newfound resurgence of interest in sending humans to the Moon

EXPRESS READ

Drunk women attack cabbie, create ruckus

Bengaluru: Two women, reportedly under the influence of alcohol, assaulted a cab driver with a helmet and a steel chain, and created a ruckus after they were questioned by passersby. The incident happened near the Dosa Camp on VV Road around 10 pm on Saturday. The duo also made an obscene gesture towards the public who confronted them for assaulting the driver. The Hulimavu police took the women to the police station. The duo was on a two-wheeler and rammed into the cab. When cab driver Ahmed asked the women to pay for the damages, they started abusing him. **ENS**

Concrete mixer hits bike, kills pregnant teacher

Bengaluru: A 29-year-old school teacher, who was four months pregnant, was killed on the spot when a concrete mixer lorry knocked down her two-wheeler near Gundappa Circle on the Hennur-Bagalur Road on Sunday. The deceased was Manasa, a resident of Mandur. The body was shifted to the Yelahanka government hospital. "The victim was four months pregnant and was teaching Classes 8 and 9 at a private school in Mandur. She was going to attend the Central Teacher Eligibility Test at a private school in Kothanur when it happened," said an officer.

2 drown while fishing at agricultural pond

Bengaluru: A 32-year-old man and a 17-year-old-boy drowned at an agricultural pond at Chandurayanahalli in Magadi taluk of Bengaluru South district on Sunday. The deceased, identified as Shankar, 32, and Mohith, 17 were trying to catch fish while sitting at the pond's edge. One of them slipped and fell into the pond and the other other drowned in a rescue attempt. "Since there was no support to hold, the two have drowned in the pond which is more than 10 feet," said an officer. **ENS**

Masseur misbehaves with Canadian

FIR registered for harassment, five-star hotel management tried to downplay incident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru:

A 44-year-old Canadian national, said to be a delegate of Canadian government, filed a complaint with Vidhana Soudha police accusing a therapist at a five-star luxury hotel in the Central Business District (CBD) of behaving inappropriately with her when she had gone for a massage. The Canadian woman was in the city to attend a conference.

The incident came to light after a person, identified as Surya Pratap Rana, posted about the woman's ordeal on X. He tagged Bengaluru City Police on Friday in a video post recorded while speaking to the hotel staff. Police replied to the post, seeking the exact location of the incident and contact number.

"She alleges that during the session, the therapist behaved inappropriately, crossed professional boundaries, and at one point left her exposed and unclothed with the door open, causing extreme distress and humiliation. When she confronted him, she was threatened into silence. Shaken and in shock, she sought help. Management allegedly attempted to downplay the incident. The FIR has been registered and we are going to sue the hotel and all the culprits along with the management for harassment," the post read.

Hotel staff apologises to the victim over a video call after the incident | X

"The incident happened two days ago. A case of assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her modesty has been registered against the accused," DCP (Central) Akshay M Hakay said.

Another officer privy to the investigation said the hotel has refunded Rs 7,000 to the victim. "The victim claims she paid Rs 10,000 for the massage. No arrests have been made yet," the officer added. Further investigations are on.

The mangled remains of the two cars which collided at Banavara gate near Tumakuru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Chain accident leaves 2 dead, 9 injured near Tumakuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tumakuru

IN a chain of accidents involving three cars, two men died, and nine others, including CEN DySP, were injured near Nagavalli village at Banavara gate on Tumakuru-Kunigal state highway on Sunday, around 8 pm.

The deceased were Suresh(55), a realtor, of Yadavanagara and **Murali** (60), a contractor, of Ashokanagara in the city. The DySP Ramakrishnappa, who sustained injuries, was shifted to the district hospital along with other injured, including a woman. The victims were returning home after attending a function at Adi Chunchanagiri in Nagamangala taluk when the incident occurred.

A car bound for Mysuru from Chitradurga, in an attempt to overtake another one, hit the car coming in the opposite direction, resulting in a chain of mishaps. Hebburu police have registered a case.

Woman storms into wedding hall, stops hubby from marrying another girl in Tumakuru

Tumakuru: Resembling a scene of a melodrama of a soap opera, a woman stormed into a wedding hall and managed to stop her husband from tying the knot with another girl at the temple town of Yediyur in Kunigal taluk on Sunday. In yet another twist, the would-be bride also approached the police against the bridegroom as he had deceived her by keeping the facts hidden. The Amrituru police transferred both the complaints to the concerned RR Nagar police station in Bengaluru. Harish Prasad, an employ-ee with a private firm, allegedly married his childhood friend Lepakshi even as the latter had not attained 18 years of age eleven years ago. After she turned 18, he entered wedlock in the presence of relatives and friends. But he, along with his older sisters and their mother, used to harass Lepakshi. "They take away my salary and assault me physically", she alleged. She also moved the family court, which had taken the route of mediation to unite the couple. Prasad said that he will reconcile and live again with Lepakshi. Meanwhile, he arranged a marriage with Punyashree of Nittur in Malavalli taluk of Mandya without an official divorce to his first wife. **ENS**

V-DAY HEARTBREAK

Girlfriend engaged, bodybuilder dies by suicide in city

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A 26-year-old bodybuilder and gym trainer has died by suicide after his girlfriend invited him to her wedding with another man. The incident happened in the Mahalakshmipuram police station limits on Saturday. The victim, Kiran, a resident of Geleyara Balaga, in the death note, blamed his girlfriend and her mother for his death. He was in love with the woman, said to be two years older than him. Both were in love for the last three years.

Eight months ago, the woman is said to have gone to Kiran's house to speak to his parents about their marriage. His parents said yes to their marriage. She was asked to wait till Kiran's elder brother got married.

About a fortnight ago, the woman reportedly met Kiran and gave him a wedding invitation card, following which he was under severe depression.

On Saturday, he spoke to his father, Shridar. In the evening, he died by suicide by hanging, police said. "We had come to know about her relationship with another man. When we brought this to the notice of Kiran, he did not believe. Now he has died for her," said a family member.

"Despite having issues with my left hand, I still worked hard to bring up my children. Kiran did not see my struggle behind their upbringing; he has taken the extreme step for his lover. When she came to our home eight months ago, she told us that her family had around Rs 40 lakh in loans, and most of it was cleared by my son," Sridhar said. The body was shifted to the Victoria Hospital's mortuary for the postmortem.

"A case of abetment of suicide under section 108 of BNS has been registered. No arrests have been made yet," Babasab Nemagoud, DCP (North) said.

HELPLINE

If you are having suicidal thoughts, help is available anytime for you or your friends. Call Sneha Foundation - 04424640050, Tele Manas -14416 (24x7) or call, Tata Institute- 02225521111 (Mon-Sat 8 am-10 pm)

Your Guide to Spicy living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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KIIT CONTINUES STRONG PLACEMENT PERFORMANCE FOR 2025 BATCH

NVIDIA, MICROSOFT AMONG TOP RECRUITERS

KIIT Deemed to be University (KIIT-DU) has once again demonstrated its strong standing among India's leading universities with an impressive on-campus placement performance for the 2025 batch. Despite a challenging job market globally, KIIT recorded an overall placement conversion of around 92.5 per cent, reaffirming why it is consistently regarded as one of the best institutions for campus placements in the country.

During the 2025 placement season, over 757 companies visited the KIIT campus to recruit from around 5,000 eligible students, resulting in approximately 4,621 job offers across various schools and disciplines.

Another blockbuster year

92.5% placements, **4,621** offers from **757** recruiters

51 LPA by **Microsoft**, **NVIDIA** at ₹36.28 LPA– global majors choose KIIT

KSOT SHINES

3,800+ offers, ₹8.5 LPA average, **1,500+** dream jobs

BIG NUMBERS, BIGGER TRUST

- **TCS** 530
- **Wipro** 342
- **Internships** 1,200+

ACROSS SCHOOLS, SUCCESS

KSRM 100% strong results in Management, Biotech & Law

2026 MOMENTUM HIGH

70% achieved

- 3,000+ offers already in hand

KALINGA INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY
Deemed to be University U/S 3 of UGC Act, 1956

Strong Performance by KIIT School of Technology

THE KIIT School of Technology (KSOT) led the placement drive, with more than 3,800 job offers made by 451 companies. The average CTC stood at ₹8.5 lakh per annum, while 739 students secured multiple offers, reflecting the strong industry demand for KIIT graduates. Notably, over 1,500 offers were classified as "Dream Offers", and 59 companies offered packages of ₹10 LPA and above. The highest package of ₹51 LPA was offered by Microsoft, while mass recruiters such as TCS (530 offers) and Wipro (342 offers) hired in large numbers. In addition, 1,209 paid internship opportunities were generated, providing valuable industry exposure to students even before graduation.

STRONG PLACEMENTS ACROSS OTHER SCHOOLS

The KIIT School of Management (KSOM) witnessed participation from 161 companies, generating 401 offers for MBA students. The highest package was ₹20 LPA, with an average package of ₹7.25 LPA.The KIIT School of Rural Management (KSRM) once again achieved 100 per cent placement, maintaining its consistent record. In all, 51 companies recruited students, with the highest package reaching ₹20.71 LPA and an average of ₹5.75 LPA.The KIIT School of Biotechnology (KSBT) recorded 85 per cent placement, with several students opting for higher studies. 42 companies participated, and the highest package was ₹8 LPA. The KIIT School of Law (KSOL) attracted 52 law firms and corporate organisations, including leading names such as Wadia Ghandy & Co., Athena Law, and Bajaj Allianz. The highest package of ₹9.6 LPA was offered by Wadia Ghandy& Co. with an average of ₹4.5 LPA.

2026 PLACEMENTS OFF TO A STRONG START

Even as placements for the 2025 graduating batch concluded on a high note, KIIT has already gained strong traction in the ongoing campus recruitment for the 2026 graduating students. Despite challenging global market conditions, the university has already achieved an overall placement conversion of around 70 per cent so far across major schools, even as the season is still midway. The KIIT School of Technology has led the 2026 placement drive, with over 3,000 offers made by more than 175 companies to date. This includes over 1,200 dream offers of ₹10 LPA and above extended by 44 companies. Large-scale hiring by companies such as Infosys and Accenture has further strengthened the season. Other schools, including Management, Rural Management, Biotechnology and Law, have also reported encouraging early placement outcomes, signalling another strong year ahead for KIIT's graduating students. The Founder of KIIT and

NVIDIA AMONG TOP HIGH-PAYING RECRUITERS

One of the key highlights of the 2025 placement season was the recruitment by NVIDIA, which offered a CTC of ₹36.28 LPA, placing it among the top-paying companies at KIIT. NVIDIA's participation reflects KIIT's growing reputation among global technology leaders and its strong focus on future-ready skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, computing, and advanced engineering. Other companies offering packages above ₹30 LPA included Human Resocia, Hike, and PayPal, further underlining the diversity and quality of recruiters visiting the campus.

TOP 10 COMPANIES OFFERING THE HIGHEST PACKAGES

The placement season saw strong interest from global and high-end recruiters. The top 10 highest-paying companies were

- Microsoft : **₹51.00** LPA
- Human Resocia: **₹44.52** LPA
- Hike: **₹41.70** LPA
- PayPal: **₹36.50** LPA
- NVIDIA: **₹36.28** LPA
- ITAGAKI Corporation (Zenken): **₹28.98** LPA
- Juspay Technologies: **₹27.00** LPA
- Cisco: **₹24.73** LPA
- D. E. Shaw India: **₹24.30** LPA

KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta said the consistent placement performance reflects KIIT's long-standing focus on quality education and industry relevance. "At KIIT, our effort has always been to prepare students for sustainable careers, not just their first job. The continued trust of leading global companies, including high-technology and innovation-driven organisations, shows that our students are industry-ready. Even in a challenging job market, KIIT students have performed exceptionally well, which makes us proud," he said.

Reacting to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's remark that the state got an "empty pot" in the Union Budget, Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Sunday said, "The CM is preparing to present his 17th Budget. How can someone who has presented so many budgets not understand the vision behind a forward-looking Union Budget?"

The AI avatar is a destroyer as well as a nourisher. It may be the case that AI creates more jobs than it eliminates. But how well-equipped is our knowledge ecosystem to grab the opportunity? While industry experts worry over the dearth of day-zero ready professionals, university dons aver that their curricula absorb and adopt the ever-changing nuances of new intelligence to mould a generation that is fit for the shift in the nature of jobs

CARPE DIEM
MEET THE AI CHALLENGE

RASHMI PATIL @ Bengaluru

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

DESPITE Bengaluru being the IT capital of India, industry experts, whose companies are based in the city, are worried over the lack of AI talent among job seekers and youngsters who graduate from premier engineering degrees including Computer Science, Electronics and Communication and others every year.

According to the experts, the industry is facing a severe shortage of blended talent of product managers, analysts and operational leaders who can work as AI translators by merging business logic with technical tools. They say that currently, there is only one qualified candidate for every 10 open GenAI roles in India.

Recently, Dr Sharanprakash R Patil, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood, had said that only 20,000 engineering graduates out of every one lakh students get jobs in Karnataka. While some experts blame it on curriculum that focuses more on theory than practical learning, others have stated that it is difficult for educational institutions to keep pace with the fast-developing technology and skills required for it.

Soumendra Mohanty, Chief Strategy Officer, Tredence, a data science company, said, "Talent gaps are a result of the mismatch of incremental evolution of education systems, while AI advances at breakneck speed. Institutions continue to emphasise baseline computer science foundations whereas businesses are increasingly looking for specialised, production-ready skills in Agentic AI and Machine Learning Operations (MLOps)."

He says, "This disconnect means many graduates enter the workforce equipped with theory that is already losing relevance by the time they begin their careers. Furthermore, the explosion of Generative AI across every business function has created a Data Darwinism effect, where the speed of adoption simply outruns traditional training cycles. As a result, companies continue to face a chronic shortage where job demand doubles annually while the supply of day-zero ready professionals, whose capability of handling complex AI stacks from their first day, continues to suffer."

Bhavesh Goswami, Founder & CEO, Cloud That, a cloud training and consulting services firm, says India might face a shortfall of over one million AI professionals by 2027. "The gap isn't restricted to highly specialised roles such as AI researchers; it is part of the broader challenge of a shortage of an AI-ready workforce. We need a shift in perspective to close this gap. Universities need to play their role by prioritising hands-on learning, while organisations need to embed continuous upskilling efforts into their culture by providing a wireframe for their employees to level up from semi-skilled to super-skilled," says Goswami.

UPSKILLING AND RESKILLING OF WORKFORCE

It is not just college graduates who need to develop skills, the existing workforce in companies also need upskilling and reskilling.

There should be a substantial thrust in companies on mid-career reskilling and upskilling. It should become part of the work culture, say experts. Mohanty says, "Companies need to transition to a learning-as-a-workflow model to bridge the gap. Upskilling should be a part of daily operations, rather than an isolated event. Activities like AI sandboxes enable teams to experiment with challenges without risk and linking learning paths to performance reviews. Data scientists and business leads can co-create solutions by forming cross-functional squads so that learning becomes a part of their daily work lives. The objective is to build co-intelligent teams that can seamlessly orchestrate constellations of AI agents, thereby turning talent shortage into a competitive strength."

He warns that companies that undermine investment in large-scale reskilling over the next 5-7 years, could face a potential competitive wipeout.

Echoing this, Goswami says, "Partnership between industries gives access to industry-aligned, structured reskilling paths, the inclusion of real-world cases, and support for employees to learn, unlearn, and relearn as AI evolves. Without these, AI might remain a thing of the future instead of a tool in the present."

NO STABILITY IN JOB ROLES

Dr Basaralu Sudharshan, former head, skilling, Reliance Industries Limited, said there is a lack of skills among students but there is also lag among faculty to update themselves in terms of knowledge and practical skills. "For example, in Germany, there is a dual education system, where students spend two years in training with companies and two years at college to study. This type of integrated learning in India is slowly picking up, but we have a long way to go," says Sudharshan.

Evolving job roles is another challenge for industry and job seekers, he says. "Job roles in the industry are evolving along with technology. Around 10 or 15 years ago, job roles offered were stable. There used to be a defined level of expected competency. However, now even industries are not able to identify the competency level, and roles are changing quickly. That's why there will always be a gap between industry and curriculum teaching in colleges."

BIG PICTURE

TALENT CRUNCH AND AI

2030 AI talent crunch in India will persist at least still 2030, suggest organisations like World Economic Forum

53% Projected demand-supply gap by late 2026, with nearly 1 million unfilled AI roles

1.2 million New roles will be needed by end of next 10 years in India's GCC ecosystem

Dearth of AI talent: Pai

TV Mohandas Pai, former CFO and board member at Infosys, said there is a dearth of AI talent in India. According to the Stanford University 2025 Global AI Vibrancy Tool, India has emerged as the world's third-most competitive nation in AI after US and China, with an expanding pool of talent. Whenever companies hire students who are fresh out of college, they are trained. Even faculty at colleges and universities don't have ready skills. Colleges as well as faculty have to look for open source materials available in the form of videos these days and upgrade their knowledge. Many students can also go to these open sources so that they have basic understanding of AI, ML, Python etc. It is easy, as they can spend two hours every day on this to enhance their skills. Colleges can refer to the syllabus taught at IITs, which is easily available, and adopt the same at their institutes to bring that standard.

UNION BUDGET FOCUS ON AI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has proposed to set up a high-powered education to employment and enterprise standing committee. The committee will recommend embedding AI in the curricula from school level, upgrading State Councils of Educational Research and Training for teacher training and proposing frameworks for upskilling and reskilling engineers, technology professionals in AI and emerging technologies.

Steps will be taken to enable AI matching jobs and training workers according to the required skills, make the informal workforce visible and verifiable, and measures to attract skilled workforce from across the globe to India.

CURRICULUM UPDATION IN FULL SPEED

RV University Vice-Chancellor Prof Ram Kumar Kakani says there is no dearth of AI talent among graduates and job seekers. He says, "I have heard about the so-called dearth of AI talent, but I beg to differ. I do not completely agree with industry experts who say there is a complete lack of AI talent among college graduates and job seekers, at least in places such as Bengaluru, where private universities work closely with industry and actively capture those inputs in the curriculum."

Kakani adds, "It might be the case in remotely located colleges, say in regions like Himachal Pradesh, but it is neither a valid nor an appropriate insight. At RV University, we revisit the course curriculum and pedagogy every two years. Nearly one-third of our faculty members come from industry. This directly reflects in our course curriculum and pedagogy. As a result, areas such as AI, ML and related aspects are well integrated in the curriculum."

It is the same at GoI-funded National Institute of Technology, Suratkal (NITK), which is currently in the process of a major curriculum revision for 2026-27, that will make Data Science and AI a compulsory course for all engineering students.

Prof Annappa B from NITK, says, "This aligns with India's NEP 2020, which urges universities to adopt flexible, multidisciplinary, practice-oriented curricula. The curriculum is updated through major revisions every three to four years, with continuous elective additions in between, and all stakeholders — including industry and academic experts — participate in the Board of Studies to ensure the syllabus reflects current industrial needs."

RESEARCH PROJECTS GALORE AT NITK

At the same time, research internships and project-based learning in AI play a critical role in skill development for students.

Explaining the ongoing projects at NITK, Annappa says, "Collectively, our sponsored projects span across social outreach, explainable AI, environmental and ocean modelling, quantum computing, and healthcare applications. It includes exploration and inventory of seamount fishery resources in the Indian seas with an emphasis on cephalopod assemblages and AI-based automated characterisation; quantum cryptanalysis using Grover's quantum search algorithm; development of deep explainable frameworks for semantically similar legal document retrieval and summarization; AI-based modelling and assessment of saltwater intrusion phenomena; Microsoft-supported AI for Earth projects focused on environmental monitoring; and deep neural network-based early detection of lung cancer from low-dose CT images."

In addition to private universities and central government-funded universities, public state-funded Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) also updates its curriculum every year.

Dr S Vidyashankar, Vice-Chancellor, VTU, said they update the curriculum every year. "From this academic year itself, we have incorporated technologies like AI and ML into the curriculum. This enables students to learn them at the college level. Not only AI, but we are also adopting Super Intelligence, which is gaining international recognition abroad. We have even entered into an agreement for this. Furthermore, we are providing opportunities for internships for practical training. As a result, after completing college, students will find it easier to get employment," says Vidyashankar.

Indo-US trade deal 'surrender' by PM, says Siddu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday slammed the Indo-US trade deal as "complete surrender", saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi needs to step down immediately and accused him of letting down farmers and the nation's dignity.

"The interim trade deal announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump did not come from equal and fair negotiations. It followed tariff threats, pressure tactics and public warnings by the United States on India's trade and energy choices. Yielding under such pressure is not diplomacy but surrender. By accepting these terms, Narendra Modi has weakened India's independence and lowered the country's standing in the world," he posted on X.

He said the deal terms show why this framework is deeply unfair. The United States will continue to impose tariffs of around 18% on Indian goods, while India is being pushed to reduce tariffs on American goods to zero and remove other barriers. There are claims that India will import American goods worth $500 billion. US leaders have openly said this framework will benefit American farmers and rural America. At the same time, Indian agriculture stands to lose heavily. Indian farmers will be forced to compete with cheap, subsidised American farm products, threatening the livelihoods of 72 crore farmers and farm labourers. This is not free trade. It is economic coercion, he said.

"India accepted these terms because Modi reduced India to a position of weakness, where protecting himself mattered more than protecting the country. Serious legal cases involving his close friend Gautam Adani are ongoing in US courts. At the same time, international disclosures linked to the Epstein files have surfaced, in which the names of Modi and a senior Union minister have appeared. We do not yet know what more may come out. But even the possibility that such matters could be used to pressure India is deeply dangerous," the CM said.

He added that this is not a series of isolated failures but a clear pattern of surrender - on trade, diplomacy and national security. "A prime minister who exposes the nation to pressure, weakens farmers' livelihoods, and damages India's dignity cannot continue in office. 'Compromised' Modi must take responsibility and immediately resign," Siddaramaiah said.

State ready, Centre delaying Kalasa Banduri, Mekedatu: CM

MALLIKARJUN HIREMATH
@ Hubballi

COMING down heavily on Union Minister Pralhad Joshi and the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said the Kalasa Banduri Nala project is getting delayed as the central Wildlife Board is yet to give its nod.

"The state government is all set to commence the work as soon as it gets the approval. The government has already called the tender and the project has been assigned to two agencies," he said after laying the foundation stone for projects worth Rs 350 crore, including the Rs-200 crore Bennihalla Flood Control and Embankment Construction Project in Shiraguppi village. Union minister Pralhad Joshi skipped the event.

He said the BJP is lying to people. This is not the only project delayed by the Union government. The Upper Krishna and Mekedatu projects are also being delayed. To hide their inefficiency, BJP leaders are claiming that the state government's treasury is empty. These works can be taken as testimony that the state government is busy in developmental works and not in spreading lies, he added.

"The BJP is a team of liars. I will quote an instance seven years back when (BJP leader) BS Yediyurappa said if the BJP comes to power the government will take up the Kalasa Banduri project work, but they did nothing. The Union finance minister also promised to give Rs 5,300 crore for the Upper Badra project. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai had said the project will be considered as a national project but did nothing," he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah interacts with farmers after inaugurating various projects at Shiraguppi village on Sunday | EXPRESS

The CM also said the state is getting only 13 per cent of its GST share and criticised the replacement of MGNREGA with the Viksit Bharat-G RAM-G Act. "The Congress will restore the old name of the scheme. Demanding GST share is not wrong. The Union government has looted enough from the state in the form of GST," he added.

He explained that the state has lost Rs 20,000 crore of its fair share this year. The trade deal with the USA is dangerous for farmers of the country. It is the time for farmers to take a call, Siddaramaiah said.

Law Minister HK Patil said Joshi has no moral right to step into the district. He had cheated the public by spreading lies regarding Kalasa Banduri and other works. District in-charge Minister Santosh Lad and Navalgund MLA NH Konaraddi also spoke.

Flood-prone stream

1. The Bennihalla stream originates near Dundasi in Haveri district and flows through Kundgol, Hubballi, Dharwad, Navalgund and Gadag, covering **148** km, before joining the Malaprabha river near Manasagi
2. As many as **15** sub streams flowing from Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri and Gadag join the Bennihalla stream and results in flash floods during rain
3. **50,000** acres of agricultural lands get submerged during flooding. As many as 37 villages get water logged

Top brass must clear air on power tussle: Dr G

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

HOME Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Sunday indirectly suggested that the Congress high command clear the air over the change in leadership tussle in Karnataka as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's MLC son Dr Yathindra and the DCM D K Shivakumar camp are setting their own narratives.

"Only the chief minister, deputy CM and the Congress high command know what transpired between them over the issue. If the high command is silent, what are we supposed to understand?" he told reporters.

On Dr Yathindra's statement that "Siddaramaiah will be the CM for five years", Parameshwara clarified that "that is his personal opinion".

"We are relying on the high command, who said that there is an agreement on power sharing. Did the high command say this? Shivakumar may have said it, that is his opinion. We do not know what he knows," he said.

"If there is an agreement, the high command can say or take action. There is no point in questioning us without central leaders taking any decision. The high command knows very well what to do and how to handle it. The final decision lies with it. Many people can make statements, but they are just statements. All issues will be resolved only when the high command takes a call," he said.

Meanwhile, he defended the government's decision to purchase Artificial Intelligence-powered social media analytics software at a cost of Rs 67 crore to tackle misinformation and hate speech.

DEEP IN THE MINES

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar inspects the Hatti Gold Mines in Raichur on Sunday. He was accompanied by minister Shivaraj Thangadagi and others | EXPRESS

A minor earthquake measuring 2.4 magnitude on the Richter scale was recorded in T Narasipura, Mysuru on Saturday evening. Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre said the epicentre was located in Malavalli, and the low-intensity tremor was felt within a radius of 20 to 30 km

Centre's new policy to regulate forest area dvpt

Natural forest corridors to ease elephant and big cat movements

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Union government is presenting a new version of linear infrastructure policy that will permit and regulate infrastructure and developmental works in forest areas. The Centre has envisaged the task of giving inputs and preparing the policy to the Wildlife Institute of India, said International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) programme director Das Gupta on Sunday.

Gupta was speaking on the sidelines of the five-day IBCA summit inaugurated in Bengaluru on Sunday. The workshop and course for the subsequent days will be held in Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves. He said the first version of the policy was released in 2017 and now it is evolving. The construction of underpasses and overpasses have proven to be a success in Pench and a few other places, and now, it is being replicated in other parts of Indian forests. The Central government has now agreed to invest in these projects. Linear infrastructure works are now being undertaken in the north-eastern landscapes.

"In the new policy, involving people and taking the opinion of all stakeholders is being stressed, along with strengthening natural forest corridors connecting forests, for easing elephant and big cat movements. Court orders will have to be abided by all the states in strengthening corridors to mitigate conflicts. While the country is focusing on economic, social and defence security, it is also time to lay emphasis on ecological security and this big cat summit will focus on this," he said.

Gupta said forests are better protected in the colonised countries and now there is a need to prioritise on securing habitats beyond protected areas and address the challenges of species conservation. The central government will work with the state governments also on this in future.

The IBCA was launched in 2023, headquartered in India, and agreements have been signed with South Asian, Central American and Central Asian countries. Of the 38 countries, representatives from 19 attended the inaugural function on Sunday and the others will join the workshops in tiger reserves, Gupta said. "With this, 55 million sqkm area will be addressed, which is 10% of the earth's geographical area. Forest conservation does not get even 1% of the GDP. Thus corporates, public sector organisations including CII, ADP, PwC and private firms have been included for big cat conservation," he said.

Feel the Heat: Low harvest pushes chilli price to Rs 500/kg

Belagavi: Chilli prices in and around Karnataka have flared up, costing ₹450 to ₹500/kg compared to ₹150 to ₹280/kg a fortnight ago. Though the chillies in the market are sourced from areas around Hubballi and Haveri, produce is limited due to heavy rainfall and unpredictable weather, causing the steep rise. Farmers who expected around ten bags of yield per acre harvested only half this season. Traders highlighted the contrast with last year, when high yields caused prices to crash. Experts predict the prices could remain high for the next three or four months. The small and large manufacturers in spice industry are also grappling with high raw material costs and is purchasing cautiously. Limited supply also raised concerns about hoarding and black-market activities, leading traders to keep a close watch on storage in rural areas. **ENS**

KSRTC warns: FIR for illegal ad removal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has directed officials to initiate police action, including filing First Information Report (FIRs) against those involved in illegal removal of advertisements displayed on its buses. KSRTC said some individuals have been illegally tearing off advertisements on public buses, terming such acts unlawful and warned against it. The corporation said public objections or complaints related to advertisements must be submitted in writing and examined as per the terms of the contract before any action is taken. KSRTC Managing Director Akram Pasha said they will follow Advertisement Standards Council of India (ASCI) Code henceforth. Following directions from Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, the corporation has already instructed contractors to remove all direct or indirect advertisements promoting tobacco consumption by February 15.

The directive issued on February 7 also asks that bus stand staff, drivers and other employees be sensitised about the issue and given clear instructions on handling complaints related to advertisements. KSRTC has further asked officials to take necessary action and submit compliance reports.

DROWNED DEBRIS

Ulsoor Lake choked with discarded waste, visible after the lake was drained for development works in Bengaluru | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Activist helps elderly woman perform son's last rites

Belagavi: Social activist Gangadhar Patil and his team compassionately stepped forward to help an elderly mother perform the last rites of her son after she was left helpless. Kiran Kitwadakar (54), a resident of Gondhali Galli in Belagavi, passed away at his home following an illness. His aged mother was all alone, and could not arrange the funeral on her own. The house reportedly filled with a foul smell from the body, worsening her grief. Gangadhar Patil took responsibility of the necessary rituals after the locals alerted him about the situation. They transported the body to the crematorium at Sadashiv Nagar, where the last rites were conducted with due respect and dignity.

Hostels will encourage girls to take up STEM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of establishing girls' hostels in higher education STEM institutions in every district, has been welcomed by academicians. As per the budget, one girls' hostel will be established in every district through VGF/capital support, and will help them while working long hours at laboratory and other research studies.

Academicians say it will encourage rural girls to take up STEM after Class 10 and pre-university. Physics Professor AP Radhakrishna from Puttur said, "We need hostels inside institutions in other districts of Karnataka, apart from Bengaluru. It is essential to reduce the financial burden of accommodation for these girls, especially when they are doing well in the STEM education sector. A poor girl from a remote village in Puttur is pursuing PhD in Astrophysics in Bengaluru. It will encourage many such girls to take up STEM and enhance their competency."

Physics Professor AP Bhat from Udupi said, "Higher education is a burden for girls in rural areas. The Union government's decision to establish hostels in the districts will ensure their safety when they travel to cities for STEM education. In addition, girls will opt for STEM branches after Class 10 and PU."

Prof Cheluvaraj B of Mathematics department, Bangalore University, Jnanabharathi campus, said, "At BU, the number of girls taking up Math at PG level has increased in the past few years. Currently, there are 65 girls studying in our department and it is the same with PhD also."

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LTD

BACK OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR, LIC JEEVAN MANGAL , HAYES ROAD, RESIDENCY RD, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA 560025

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL), under Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued **Demand Notice** to following Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors calling upon them to repay the outstanding due amount mentioned in the said notices. However, The Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors having failed to repay the said due amount, the undersigned has taken **SYMBOLIC POSSESSION (S)** in exercise of powers conferred U/s 13(4) and U/s 14 of the said Act read with the Rule 8.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property have been mortgaged to the LIC HFL, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of LIC HFL will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & without any recourse basis on Date of Auction, as per the brief particulars given here under.

Name of Borrower/s- Mr. NEELESH ABASAHEB DESAI & Ms. BHAGYASHRI NEELESH DESAI
Loan No. 410800001649

SCHEDULE- A : All that piece and parcel of CTS No. 1594/1, H 14 (on R.S. No. 110/18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 42, 24, 27) totally measuring 34 Gunthas 9.76 annas situated at Godsewadi, Dwaraka Nagar, (formerly Chougalewadi) Belgaum within the Jurisdiction of Sub-Registrar Belgaum and which is bounded as under: To the East: By R.S No. 110/26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, To the West: By R S No. 110/16, 39 & 40, To the North: By R S No. 110/17 & Road, 110/26 To the South:By R S No. 110/25, 32, 43.
SCHEDULE – B : All the piece and parcel of "SKYNEST" Flat No. B-201, located on Second Floor of the "B" Wing, having Super Built up Area of 1020 Sq. ft. along with undivided share 255 Sq. ft. constructed over the "Schedule 'A' Property and the same is bounded as under: On or towards East: By Flat No. B-207, On or towards West: By set back, On or towards North: By Flat No. B-202, On or towards South: By setback/SKYNEST Building 'A' Wing

Date of Demand Notice	16/09/2023
Amt Demanded	Rs.31,07,282.00 with further Interest, Cost and Expenses.
Account Details	Beneficiary Name: LIC Housing Finance Ltd Beneficiary Branch Name: HDFC BANK LTD Account Number: LHFLBA410800001649 IFSC Code: HDFC0000009
Date of Possession	Symbolic Possession on 03-07-2025
Reserve Price	Rs.35,00,000.00 (Rupees Thirty Five Lakhs Only)
EMD	Rs.3,50,000 /- (Rupees Three Lakh Fifty Thousand Only)
Total Amount payable as on date	Rs. 4274359.35 (Rupees Fourty-two lakhs seventy-four thousand three hundred fifty-nine rupees and thirty-five paisa Only)
Website of E-Auction	https://online.lichousing.com/eauction/ & https://www.auctionbazaar.com/
Date & time of Inspection of Photocopies of property documents	21 FEB 2026 & 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Address where property documents can be inspected	BACK OFFICE, 1st FLOOR, JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, HAYES ROAD, BENGALURU -560025, KARNATAKA.
Inspection of the Property Date for inspection and time	23 FEB 2026 & 10:30AM to 1:00PM
Contact person: Name of Authorised Representative	Mr. A.S.R Phanindra, Associate Chief Manager, Mob No: 8008177199
Contact details of E-Auction from the service provider	Mr. Uthappa K K, Mob No. : 7799510999 email id:- contact@auctionbazaar.com
Last date of submission of Online Tender / Bid	24 FEB 2026 till 3.00 PM
E Auction Date & Time	25 FEB 2026 & 11 AM to 3.00 PM

Further to this PUBLIC NOTICE for E-Auction Sale of the above said Assets / properties (in terms and conditions of the SARFAESI, Act 2002 and rules thereunder) LICHFL invites OFFERS through online mode only to purchase the said property as per the following Terms and Conditions as mentioned below:

1. E-Auction Sale is being held on **'As is where is Basis is' and 'As is what is Basis', 'whatever there is Basis' And 'Without Any Recourse Basis'**, and will be conducted "Online". The E-Auction will be conducted through LIC HFL approved E-auction service provider – **https://www.auctionbazaar.com/**. **2.** To the best of the knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, no other encumbrance exists on the mortgaged property, except as disclosed in the publications. However, the interested Bidders to conduct their own independent due diligence verifications regarding the Location and Identity of the property, Inspection of Public records in the Sub Registrars' Offices/Civil Courts, to find any encumbrances, statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, Income Tax, Excise Duty, Labor Dues, electricity, and maintenance dues, etc., of the Secured Asset. The Successful bidders shall have to bear all outgoing i.e., municipal taxes, maintenance/society charges, electricity charges, water charges, stamp duty, registration charges, (if applicable), if any and all other incidentals charges, cost including all outgoing relating to the respective properties over and above the Reserve Price. LICHFL will not be held responsible for any charge, lien, liabilities, etc., of whatsoever nature pending upon the properties as mentioned above. **3.** The intending bidders should register their names at portal "website of E-auction service provider" as mentioned in the auction sale notice (as published in newspaper advertisement). **4.** The E-auction Sale is subject to the conditions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act/Rules 2002 and the terms and conditions mentioned hereunder/ website also subject to conditions in the offer/bid documents to be submitted by the intending/participating bidders. **5.** Every bidder is required to have his/her own email address in order to participate in the online E-auction. Once Intending Bidder formally registers as a qualified tenderer before Authorized Officer of LICHFL, will have to express his/her interest to participate through the E-auction bidding platform, by submitting documents. It shall be the tenderer's/online bidder's sole responsibility to procure his/her login ID and password from the E-auction service provider. **6.** The aforesaid properties shall not be sold below the Reserve Price mentioned above. **7.** If the successful bidder defaults in effecting payments or fails to adhere to the terms and condition of E-Auction in any manner the amount already deposited will be forfeited and he/she shall not have any claim as such for forfeited amount. **8.** The offer/s along with the aforesaid Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) can be submitted "online" through the portal eg., **"www.auctionbazaar.com"** along with the EMD and scanned copy of KYC documents including PAN Card & (Aadhar Card) address proof, to the service provider, mentioned above on or before the Bid Submission due date & time as per other details of Auction above. Authorised Officer is not bound to accept highest offer made by the bidder if not acceptable to the secured creditor. **9.** Every Bidder shall deposit EMD before participating in E-Auction. The said Deposit/s shall be adjusted in the case of successful bidder/s, otherwise refunded. The said earnest money deposit/s will not carry any interest. **10.** Initial Bidding increment is **Rs 25000/-.** However, Authorised Officer will state bidding increment amount percentage for each property if, decided otherwise. **11.** The successful bidder/s shall deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, adjusting the EMD paid already, within 24 hours of bid acceptance by the Authorized officer/next working day before close of cash hours, in respect of the sale, failing which the earnest money deposited shall be forfeited. The balance 75% of the sale price is payable within 15 days from the date of confirmation of the sale unless decided otherwise by Authorised Officer in writing, the maximum period allowed is 90 days, beyond which time-period cannot be extended. In case of failure to deposit the balance amount within the prescribed period, the amount deposited shall be forfeited. The Authorized Officer shall not be required to give any further notice of forfeiture to the successful bidder. **12.** The successful bidder should bear the charges/fees payable on sale certificate, such as registration fees, stamp duty, taxes, or any other duties payable for getting the secured asset transferred in his/her name. **13.** The Sale Certificate will be issued only in the name of the successful bidder and only after receipt of the entire sale price. **14.**The notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s that they can bring the intending buyer/purchaser for purchasing the properties mentioned above, as per the terms and Conditions of the E-Auction Sale. **15.** Inspection of the photocopies of documents and Property Inspection of the above said properties can be done on the dates stated in the advertisement. Interested bidders shall contact the designated official as per the other details of E-Auction mentioned above. All conveyance and other expenses related to Inspection of the property/document copies shall be borne by the interested bidders. **16.** The LIC Housing Finance Limited reserves the right to CANCEL / ACCEPT / REJECT / ALTER / MODIFY / POSTPONE the AUCTION without giving any reason whatsoever or prior Notice. **17.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor, viz., LIC Housing Finance Ltd.

Place: Belagavi
Date : 09.02.2026

Sd/- Authorized Officer
L.I.C Housing Finance Ltd.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
KHAIRIBHANDAN & DEO IRRIGATION PROJECT, KARANJIA
AT/PO: KARANJIA, DIST.: MAYURBHANJ-757037, Tel: 06796-296144,
32001/40/2526 e-mail: cce.dip.dowr@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice No. 08/ CCEDIP of 2025-26
Bid Identification No. 08/ CCEDIP of 2025-26

1.	Nature of the Work	:	Civil Work
2.	Number of Works	:	01 (One) No of Individual Work
3.	Name of Work	:	AS PER DTCN
4	Approximate amount put to tender	:	10.62 Crore
5.	Period of Completion	:	11 (Eleven) Calendar Months including rainy season
6.	Class of Contractor	:	"A" Class and "Special" Class Contractor
7.	Date & time of Availability of Bid document in the portal	:	Dt. 10.02.2026, 10.00 AM to 24.02.2026 up to 5.30 PM
8.	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	:	Dt.16.02.2026 through email
9.	Date & time for Pre-bid Conference	:	Dt.18.02.2026, 11.00 AM
10.	Last date & time of receipt of Bids in the Portal	:	Dt. 24.02.2026 up to 5.30 PM
11.	Date, time & place of opening of Technical Bid/s (Cover-I)	:	Dt. 25.02.2026 at 10.30 AM in O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia
12.	Date, time & place of opening of Financial Bid/s(Cover-II)	:	To be intimated after evaluation of Technical BID
13.	Name & address of the officer inviting Bid	:	Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia, AT/PO-Karanjia, PS-Karanjia, Dist-Mayurbhanj, PIN-757037

*Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Khairibhandan & Deo Irrigation Project, Karanjia.
OIPR- 32001/32337/1/25-26/0033

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Bengaluru South End Circle Branch, 96, South End Road, South End Circle, Bengaluru- 560004, **Email:cb1173@canarabank.com**

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **26.02.2026 (11.00 AM to 11.30AM)**, for recovery of **Rs.3,20,25,891.53/-** (Rupees Three Crore Twenty lakhs Twenty Five thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One and Paisa Fifty Three Only)**,** , as on 31.12.2025 with further interest and cost thereon due to South End Circle branch, Canara Bank from, **1. Sri.Srinivas Burra,** #2911, 5th Main, Vontikoppal , Mysuru-570002. **2. Smt.Vasundhara B,** Flat No G-1, Door No.2930, Brigade Royal Apartments, Gokulam Main Road, Vontikopal, Mysuru-570002. **3. M/s. Star Horizon Consulting Services,** No.704, Rashi 14Cr, 2nd Main, Gokulam, 3rd Stage, Mysuru-570002. Represented by its Proprietrix Smt.Vasundhara. B

The Earnest Money shall be deposited by way of E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or **before 25.02.2026 - 5.00 pm**

DETAILS AND FULL DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY(IES) (Rs.in lacs)

Lot	Description of the Immovable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	**SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Property being the Vacant Site bearing No.334 in Converted Survey No.23/2 situated at Kasavanahalli Village, vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S).388/1991-92, dated 14.05.1992 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru District and Converted Survey No.35, vide Conversion Order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR.(S).365/1991-92, dated 22.05.1992 issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru District situated at Junna Sandra Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, now comes under jurisdiction of Doddakennahalli Village Panchayath Area, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring East to West 80 Feet and North to South 50 Feet totally measuring 4,000 Square Feet and bounded:_On the East: 50 feet Road, On the West: Site No. 344 and 345 , On the North: Site No. 333, On the South: Site No. 335 **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY:** 378 Square Feet undivided share, right. Title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.101 in the Ground Floor in the Residential Apartment Complex known as K.R.RESIDENCY constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property having a Super Built Up Area measuring 1,200 Square Feet including proportionate share in common areas, such as, passages, lobbies, staircase, lifts, etc., alongwith One Covered Car Parking Space	64.58 Lakhs	6.458 Lakhs	1.00 Lakhs

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact Chief Manager, South end Circle Branch, Bengaluru, Ph. No. 9976633313, 080-22447997, 8334999471, during office hours on any working day.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 07.02.2026

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

CCH-23 HG : 18/04/2026

IN THE COURT OF THE XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU

P & SC No. 61/2026

BETWEEN : 1. Smt. Venkatarathnamma, D/o Late B Chikkavenkatappaa, W/o Sri. B Chandrappa, Aged about 72 years, R/at No.1334, 1st Cross, Vijayanagar, Bangarpet Town, Kolar District - 563 114.
2. Sri B C Paramesh, S/o Late B Chikkavenkatappaa, Aged about 67 years, R/at No.183, 3rd Cross, BEML Nagar, KGF, Bangarpet Taluk, Kolar District - 563 115.
3. Sri. B C Srinivasa Murthy, S/o late B Chikkavenkatappaa, Aged about 64 years, R/at Near Venkateshwara Temple, No.5009, Shanthinagar, Bangarpet Town, Kolar District - 563 114.
4. Sri. B C Govinda, S/o Late B Chikkavenkatappaa, Aged about 59 years, R/at Old No.2267, New No.2266/2, 6th Main Road, Vivekanandanagar, Bangarpet Town, Kolar District - 563 114. **...Petitioners**
AND : NIL ...Respondents

PUBLIC NOTICE / CITATION

Whereas the above-named Petitioners have instituted a petition before this Hon'ble Court seeking issuance of a Succession Certificate in respect of the debts and securities of late Sri. B.C. Venkatesha, who expired on 01.10.2025 at Nelspruit, South Africa.

You are hereby called upon to appear before this Hon'ble Court **on 18/04/2026 at 11.00 a.m.,** either in person or through an Advocate, and file your objections, if any, to the issuance of the Succession Certificate in favour of the Petitioners.

Take notice that in the event of your failure to appear or raise objections within the stipulated time, the petition shall be heard and determined in your absence, and appropriate orders will be passed as deemed fit by this Hon'ble Court.

SCHEDULE

All that debts and securities standing in the name of late Sri. B.C. Venkatesha, including amounts lying in bank accounts and securities maintained in Bengaluru, India, more particularly including accounts mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Bank Name & Branch	Account No.
1.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. No. 10/7, Lavelle Road, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Br. Bengaluru - 560001	04221060000210
2.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. No. 10/7, Lavelle Road, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Br. Bengaluru - 560001	04221040001744
3.	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. No. 10/7, Lavelle Road, Shanthala Nagar, Ashok Nagar, Br. Bengaluru - 560001	04221050000785
4.	State Bank of India, No.9/1, Mahalakshmi Chambers, M G Road, Yallappa Chetti Layout, Sivan Chetti Gardens, Bengaluru-560001	31867138932
5.	State Bank of India, No.9/1, Mahalakshmi Chambers, M G Road, Yallappa Chetti Layout, Sivan Chetti Gardens, Bengaluru-560001	44292769451
6.	State Bank of India, No.9/1, Mahalakshmi Chambers, M G Road, Yallappa Chetti Layout, Sivan Chetti Gardens, Bengaluru-560001	34840754368
7.	DP A/c. (Demat Account) Kotak Securities, No. 10/7, 1st Floor, Umiya Landmark, Lavelle Road, Shivaji Nagar, Bangalore, Karnataka 560001	14294086 IN 300214 (DP ID)

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 4th day of February 2026.

By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Plaintiff : **PAVAN SAGAR**
No.21/1, Aradhya Complex, Vani Vilas Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560 004.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY

DEHRADUN–248195 (UTTARAKHAND)
(Under Sec 3 of the UGC Act 1956)

(Vide Notification No. F.9-25/89-U.3, Dated 06.12.1991)

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT-2026

I. MASTER OF SCIENCE PROGRAMMES

Issue of application forms starts on : 10th February, 2026
Last date for receiving completed application forms : 31st March, 2026
Date of Entrance Exam. : 03rd May, 2026

The dates may be changed at the discretion of the university authorities.

a) **M.Sc. Forestry (43 Seats): *Eligibility*:** Three years Bachelor's degree in science with at least one of the subjects namely Botany, Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Zoology or a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture or Forestry.
b) **M.Sc. Wood Science & Technology (43 Seats): *Eligibility*:** Three years Bachelor's degree with Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry or B.Sc. degree in Forestry.
c) **M.Sc. Environment Management (43 Seats): *Eligibility*:** Three years Bachelor's degree in any branch of basic or applied Sciences or Bachelor's degree in Forestry or Agriculture or B.E./B.Tech. in Environment Science.
d) **M.Sc. Cellulose & Paper Technology (26 Seats): *Eligibility*:** Three years Bachelor's degree in Science with Chemistry as one of the subjects or B.E./B.Tech. (Chemical or Mechanical Engineering). The 2nd year of this programme will be conducted at Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

II. PERCENTAGE OF MARKS (in the qualifying examination): Minimum 50% marks for GEN/OBC/EWS/PH categories and minimum 45% marks for SC/ST categories in all above Masters Programmes.

III. CENTRE OF EXAMINATION: (1) Dehradun, (2) Jabalpur, (3) Bengaluru, (4) Kolkata, (5) Chandigarh, (6) Delhi, (7) Lucknow, (8) Jodhpur, (9) Shimla, (10) Ranchi, (11) Coimbatore, (12) Jorhat, (13) Hyderabad.

IV. RESERVATION: The reservation for SC/ST/OBC/EWS/PwD candidates shall be as per the policy of GoI in each programme.

V. ICFRE Employees: Two seats (02) in each M.Sc. programme for regular employees of ICFRE and its institutes over and above general seats.

VI. HOW TO APPLY: Information Bulletin and Application forms can be downloaded from the website **www.fridu.edu.in**. Candidates have to send the duly filled application form along with the **bank demand draft of Rs. 1500/-** (Rupees One thousand five hundred only) for each programme in favour of **'Registrar, FRI Deemed to be University',** payable at Dehradun and send it to the Registrar, FRI Deemed to be University, P.O. IPE Kaulagarh Road, Dehradun–248195 Uttarakhand.

REGISTRAR
FRI DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
Ph. No. 0135-2224439/2224495

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Google Play App Store

A private light trainer aircraft belonging to Red Bird Aviation Company crashed in Mangaluru village of Babaleshwar taluk around 3pm on Sunday. Reports said seeing the crash, some local residents rushed to the spot and rescued pilot Kunal Malhotra and trainee pilot Gautham Sankar PR from the wreckage. They were later shifted to BLDE medical college and hospital in Vijayapura city. Both are reported to be out of danger

MILLETS, PULSES GET ₹192CR PUSH

Central funds to up cultivation; 25 seed villages planned in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, his state counterpart N Cheluvarayaswamy and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda at International Trade Fair 2026 in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

Union Minister for Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday announced Rs 191.67crore allocation to Karnataka under the National Pulses Mission, along with the release of Rs 154crore in pending funds under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, aimed at strengthening agricultural productivity and farmer incomes in the state. The announcements were made at the International Trade Fair 2026 in Bengaluru.

Addressing farmers and stakeholders, Chouhan said Karnataka plays a significant role in India's agricultural economy, particularly in the cultivation of pulses and millets. To boost tur dal production, he announced the establishment of 25 Seed Villages across the state, with an incentive of Rs 10,000 per hectare for participating farmers. He also announced a Rs 25-lakh subsidy per dal mill from the Centre to promote value addition, local processing, and better price realisation for farmers.

Highlighting Karnataka's export strength, Agriculture Minister N Cheluvarayaswamy said the state accounts for nearly 40 per cent of India's millet exports and about 60 per cent of total coffee exports. He said further growth would require enhanced Central support for food parks, cold storage, logistics, branding and exports.

Chouhan said investments in quality seeds, processing infrastructure and efficient market linkages are crucial for ensuring income stability for farmers. He reiterated that central assistance to states would be extended without political discrimination, and stressed the importance of cooperative efforts between the Centre and state to strengthen food security and agricultural growth.

Chouhan also flagged off the Sampurna Grand Challenge 2026, an innovation challenge announced by the Government of Karnataka in partnership with GAIN, Nutrition Connect, ABWCI, Thinkthrough Consulting, and other partners. w

Chouhan calls for self-reliance in horticulture

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

MINISTER for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday said global demand for fruits, vegetables and flowers is increasing and stressed the need for India to become self-reliant in horticultural production.

Chouhan said research in horticulture must be strengthened to meet domestic demand and expand export potential. He called for the development of fruit varieties with longer shelf life and better processing qualities. He directed officials and scientists to intensify research on crop varieties that can withstand extreme weather conditions and show resistance to viruses, bacteria and other diseases, in view of climate-related challenges.

State energy dept to focus on solar power

BOSKY KHANNA @ Bengaluru

MAKING the most of the announcements made in the Union Budget, the state energy department is now working to lay more stress on setting higher targets for the implementation of the Kusum-B (KB) and Kusum-C (KC) schemes. The department is also focusing on revising the set targets for the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar scheme.

According to state government data, during the past two and half years, tenders for 2800MW have been floated under Kusum-C scheme and 40,000 solar irrigation pumpsets have been installed across the state.

In addition, 20,000 houses have been covered under PM Surya Ghar scheme.

"The concession schemes offered by the Union government on the solar panels and the higher allocation for the solar power sector has come as a boon, when we are struggling to implement the schemes. We are waiting for the ministry of new and renewable energy to come out with further modifications, so that better schemes can be chalked out and included in the state budget," a senior energy department official told *The New Indian Express*.

The official said that solar power was highlighted during the recent state budget meeting with the finance department and the chief minister. "The Centre has set a target of covering one lakh houses by March 2027. We have 14 months to meet the target. To achieve it at the earliest, we have prepared a list of prospective consumers," the official said.

Hassan, K'buragi, DK, lead state in cancer detection

VINCENT D'SOUZA @ Mangaluru

DAKSHINA Kannada, Kalaburagi and Hassan have recorded the highest cancer detection in Karnataka over the past five years, accounting for the major share of diagnosed cases, even as many districts reported negligible detections despite large-scale screening, revealed the data presented in Lok Sabha.

Between 2020-21 and 2024-25, Dakshina Kannada reported a total of 3,432 diagnosed cases of oral, cervical and breast cancers. Kalaburagi followed closely with 3,397 cases, while Hassan recorded 2,436 cases.

Dakshina Kannada's data reveal a dramatic single-year surge, rising from 18 diagnosed cases out of 16,41,913 screened in 2022-23 and 67 cases from 41,088 screened in 2023-24, to 3,328 cases in 2024-25 from just 70,033 screened. Other districts with notable cumulative detections over the five years include Belagavi (849 cases), Kolar (844), Haveri (463), Tumakuru (538), and Chikmagalur (1,648), mostly concentrated in the first two years. In 2024-25, Dakshina Kannada remained the clear outlier at 3,328 cases, followed by Kolar (402) and Davanagere (189). Bagalkot reported 168 cases, Tumakuru 117 and Hassan 99. Bengaluru screened a total of 13,91,301 people and reported 292 diagnosed cases between 2020-21 and 2024-25.

SIR effect: Labour exodus hits coffee heartland during harvest season

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

With the coffee picking season in full swing in coffee country – Kodagu, Hassan, Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru – a deadline in Assam has triggered an unexpected crisis for planters. Hundreds of migrant workers from Assam are heading back home, to ensure their names are on the voter list.

Assam's ongoing Special Intensive Revision SIR of electoral rolls, a major verification drive by the Election Commission, has put thousands of names at risk of deletion if residents fail to appear or submit documents in time. For many seasonal labourers who have made Karnataka's coffee estates in the Malnad areas their workplace for months or even years, missing the SIR process could mean losing their voting rights, and potentially much more, in their home state.

The result is a sudden labour crunch right when cherries are ripening and need to be picked quickly to avoid crop damage or quality loss. If left on the plants, the ripe cherries will drop to the ground and new coffee plants will sprout, causing

more problems for growers. Planters were divided on dependency on migrant labour, revealing tensions over reliance on this sector.

MT Cariappa, a planter and advocate based in Srimangala, South Kodagu, says Kodagu's growers are far from dependent on Assam-origin workers. "We are getting labour from Wayanad in Kerala and HD Kote region. They come in jeeps and their wages are reasonable," he said. "Especially in South Coorg, we are not depending on them, but are getting labourers from Tamil Nadu also."

He also questioned the skill level and role of many Assam migrants. "In Kodagu, about 50 per cent of Assam labourers are employed in the construction sector, not coffee estates. Assam's workers are not skilled. They don't know coffee estate work properly. We are not dependent on Assam workers. In many estates, local tribal communities have been working for decades, providing a stable core workforce," he said.

The picture looks different elsewhere. Shirish Vijayendra, planter and former president of Karnataka Planters' Association, said, "Assamese labourers leaving during the Robusta harvest is going to create a severe shortage of labour. Price of local labour will go up too, as estates will be vying for workers." Their sudden departure has already driven up wage demands from remaining workers – both local and from other regions – leaving many planters stuck between paying more or risking over-ripe or fallen cherries.

With the SIR exercise in Assam sending ripples all the way to Karnataka's coffee bowl, exposing how interconnected labour networks are, there is anxiety that a crop year will go waste. Planters are scrambling to source alternatives: expensive local labour, workers from Tamil Nadu, or simply hoping the remaining migrants return quickly once their SIR obligations are met.

SUNDARAM HOME — Sundaram Finance Group —
Regd Office: No. 21, Pattulos Road, Chennai - 600 002.
Corporate Office: Sundaram Towers, No. 46, Whites Road, Chennai-600014. Ph: 044-2851 5267
Branch Office: No. 775/A, 1st Floor, Sri Venkateshwara Nilaya, 9th "A" Main Road, 1st Stage, Indiranagar, (Off 100 Feet Road), Bangalore – 560038.

SALE NOTICE

Whereas the Authorized Officer of **Sundaram Home Finance Limited,** under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Section 13(2), issued a demand notice dated **01-05-2025** calling upon the Borrower and Co-Borrorwers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower and Co-Borrowers having failed to repay the amount within the statutory period, the Authorised Officer in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act in accordance with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, had taken the possession of the property described herein below.

Interested parties may send their Auction Bids addressed to the Authorized Officer **Sundaram Home Finance Limited,** office at No.23, 2nd Floor, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai – 600 034 by way of Speed Post for purchasing the said Auctioned property in a Sealed Cover/Or delivery in person/through authorized person in Sealed Cover or by hand on time and date as prescribed herein by superscribed as **"Offer for Sale of Assets A/c. Mrs. Smita Sudhakaran"** along with a Demand Draft payable at Chennai or by way of wire transfer of RTGS method with details of UTR payable in the name of Sundaram Home Finance Limited to the Bank Name : HDFC Bank Ltd, ITC Centre – Anna Salai, Chennai – 600002, Current Bank Account No. 00040350000905, IFSC Code - HDFC0000004 with remarks as "EMD for Auction Sale of Property – **Mrs. Smita Sudhakaran** Loan Account Number – **WTF20230092"** of 25% of the Bidding amount at their individual capacity being the EMD (Earnest Money Deposit) and send the KYC Documents (Self Attested Photo Copy of Aadhar Card & PAN Card) along with the details of mobile phone number & e-mail address for further communication. The Bidders who tend to participate in auction and make the payment of EMD amount through wire transfer method (RTGS) then they shall after making the payment they should send the details of the EMD amount paid along with their self-attested KYC in a sealed cover sent to addressing the Authorized Officer on time and date prescribed herein. Further the EMD amount which are sent through DD/Wire Transfer is refundable to the other Auction Bidders whose bid amount was not successful in their favour. The Bid Offer along with the EMD amount or details of UTR Payment and KYC Documents should reach the Authorized Officer at the latest by **25/02/2026** by/before **15:30** Hours of IST at the above-mentioned address. Delivery up to 15:30 Hrs. will be opened on **25/02/2026** at 16:00 hrs. at the place of auction mentioned hereunder. The successful bidder has to pay the balance amount within 15 days from the date of receipt of Sale confirmation. The sale shall be completed only on deposit of the Balance amount as stated above.

Name and Address of the Borrower & Co-Borrower	Secured Debt (Rs.)	Reserve Price fixed for the Secured Property	Place for Title Verification
Mrs. Smita Sudhakaran (Borrower), No G-10 Bon Vievur Heights, 1st Cross Road Vijaya Bank Layout, Behind Coffee Day, Arekere, Bangalore – 560076. **Mrs. Smita Sudhakaran (Employer),** Efaarms Solution Private Limited, Dreamland Ventures, 2nd Floor, No 40 6th Sector ,12th Main, Near BDA Complex, Bangalore-560102. **Mrs. Smita Sudhakaran (Property - 1),** 1208, A 2 Wing Block, Windsor Troika Sy No 29/2 29/3 29/4, Begur Village Begur, Hobli, Bangalore South, Begur, Bangalore-560076. **Mr. Siva Binu (Co-Borrower),** No G-10, Bon Vievur Heights, 1st Cross Road, Vijaya Bank Layout, Behind Coffee Day, Arekere, Bangalore - 560076. **Mr. Siva Binu (Employer),** HP PPS Services India Pvt Ltd., 2nd Floor, 24 Salapuria Arena, Hosur Main Road, Bangalore-560030.	**Rs. 98,71,115 /-** (Rupees Ninety Eight Lakhs Seventy One Thousand One hundred and fifteen Only) as on 09.02.2026 along future interest and other charges etc., if any till actual date of payment.	**Rs. 1,42,05,000/-** (Rupees One Crore Forty Two Lakh Five Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)** 25% of the Bid Amount of Individual Bidders	**Sundaram Home Finance Limited**, No.775/A, 1St Floor, Sri Venkateshwara Nilaya, 9th "A" Main Road, 1st Stage Indiranagar (of 100 feet Road), Bengaluru – 560 038. **Place Where Sealed Bid are Opened** **Sundaram Home Finance Limited** No.23, 2nd Floor, Cathedral Garden Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai-600 034 **Date of opening the Bid** **25/02/2026 @ 16:00 Hrs**

Description of Secured Property : SCHEDULE A PROPERTY Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No.29/2 (Old Survey No.29) measuring to an extent of 03 Acres 15 Guntas (including 02 Guntas of Kharab) situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, duly converted by the non-agricultural residential purposes by the Order of the Deputy Commissioner vide Order Number BDS/ALN/SR(S):799/2004-05, dated 13/04/2005 and **bounded by:** East by: Property belonging to Sri. Ram Mohan Raju and Sri. Adhikesavulu Naidu bearing Survey No.29/1. West by: Government Road. North by: Property belonging to Sri. Gangaiah & Sons. South by: Property belonging to BTM Layout Smt. Nagarathnamma, Sri. Lakshman & Sri. Chandapurada Najappa. **Item No.2:** All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No.29/3 (Old No.29/1) measuring to an extent of 00 Acres 36½ Guntas, situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, duly converted from agricultural to nonagricultural residential purposes by Special Deputy Commissioner vide Order bearing Number ALNSR(S)57/2006-07 dated 16.06.2009 and **bounded by:** East by : Property belonging to Sri. H. R. Ravichandra. West by: Remaining portion of the same Survey No.29/1 belongs to Mr. C. Ram Mohan Raju. North by: Private Property. South by: Private Property. **Item No.3:** All that piece and parcel of land bearing Survey No.29/4 (Old No.29/1) measuring to an extent of 00 Acres 35 Guntas situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes by Special Deputy Commissioner vide Order bearing number ALNSR(S)57/2006-07 dated 16.06.2009 and **bounded by:** East by : Remaining portion of the same Survey No.29/1 belongs to Sri. Adhi Kesavulu Naidu. West by: Property belongs to M/s. Suraksha Builders and Developers. North by: Private Property. South by: Private Property. **CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE:** All that piece and parcel of lands bearing (1) Survey No.29/2 (Old No.29) measuring to an extent of 03 Acres 15 Guntas (including 02 Guntas of Kharab) duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Special Deputy Commissioner vide Order bearing number BDS/ALN/SR(S):799/2004-05 dated 13/04/2005, (2) Survey No.29/3 (Old No.29/1) measuring to an extent of 00 Acres 36½ Guntas and (3) Survey No.29/4 (Old No.29/1) measuring to an extent of 00 Acres 35 Guntas both measuring 01 Acre 31.08 Guntas duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Special Deputy Commissioner vide Order bearing number ALNSR(S)57/2006-07 dated 16.06.2009 and in all measuring 05 Acres 6½ Guntas all situated at Begur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore and **bounded by:** East by : Property belonging to Sri. H. R. Ravichandra. West by: Road. North by: Property belonging to Sri. Gangaiah & Sons and Sri. Achari Property. South by: Property belonging to Smt. Nagarathnamma, Lakshman & Sri. Chandapurada Nanjappa. **SCHEDULE B PROPERTY (UNDIVIDED SHARE IN LAND CONVEYED UNDER THIS DEED)** 721.61 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title and interest and ownership in Schedule A Property. **SCHEDULE C PROPERTY (DESCRIPTION OF THE APARTMENT CONVEYED UNDER THIS DEED)** An apartment constructed on the Schedule A Property forming part of the residential complex known as WINDSOR TROIKA Apartments and bearing the following details, together with proportionate share in all the common areas of the project under the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Begur Ward No.192. Bearing Apartment No.1208, Apartment type 3 (Three) BHK, Block A, 12th (Twelfth) Floor, with 1814 Square Feet super built-up.

Note: The intending purchasers are requested to verify the documents, inspect the property and participate in the auction after satisfying about the title, nature and condition to property. In case if there arises any dispute regarding the title or nature of the property refund will not be given after sale confirmation. Further, the highest bidder after getting the confirmation letter he/she should get the sale certificate registered in their name before the jurisdictional SRO at their own cost including the E-Khatha/Khatha.

For detailed terms and conditions of the Sale of Property of Mrs. SMITA SUDHAKARAN Loan Account No. WTF20230092, please refer to www.sundaramhome.in/uploads/filesWTF20230092/ sale. Notice/.pdf

Contact Person: Mr. S M Kuttappa – 97415 50450

Date: 09-02-2026 — **for SUNDARAM HOME FINANCE LTD., AUTHORISED OFFICER**

Public Notice For E-Auction Cum Sale

Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IIFL Home Finance Limited (IIFL HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No.98, Udyog Vihar, Phase–IV, Gurgaon-122015. (Haryana) and Branch Office at:- **"SOMA MERIT, NO.9, GROUND FLOOR, VENKATASWAMY NAIDU STREET, TASKAR TOWN, SHIVAJINAGAR, BANGALORE- 560001"** under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002** (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IIFLHFL had taken the possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS AND WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS"** for realization of IIFL-HFL's dues, The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.iiflonehome.com

Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Symbolic Possession	Reserve Price	Date of Inspection of property
Mr. Hanumaiah Hanumanthrayappa Megha Industries Mrs. Chikkathayamma **(Prospect No-IL10698028)**	**11/11/2025 Rs.20912599.44/-** (Rupees Two Crore Nine Lakh Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Nine and Forty Four Paise Only) **Bid Increase Amount Rs.200000.00/ -** (Rupees Two Lakh Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing: Property Bearing Site No 10 And 11, Sy No 22/1d & 22/1g, Khata No 568&1220, Sidedahalli Village, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Near Layout Park, Bangalore North, Karnataka, 560073 Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Land_Area, Built_Up_ Area, Carpet_Area Property Area: 2883.00, 5963.00, 3783.00	**30/01/2026 Total Outstanding As On Date 06/02/2026 Rs. 21341568.37 /-** (Rupees Two Crore Thirteen Lakh Forty One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight and Thirty Seven Paise Only)	**Rs.2,47,32,000.00 /-** (Rupees Two Crore Forty Seven Lakh Thirty Two Thousand Only) **Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 24,73,200. 00/-** (Rupees Twenty Four Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Two Hundred Only)	**11/03/2026 11:00 hrs -14:00 hrs** **EMD Last Date 13/03/2026 till 5 pm.** **Date/Time of E Auction 16/03/2026 at 11:00 hrs.-13:00 hrs**

Mode Of Payment :- EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit https://www. iiflonehome.com and pay through link available for the property/ Secured Asset only. Note: Payment link for each property/ Secured Asset is different. Ensure you are using link of the property/ Secured Asset you intend to buy vide public auction.
For Balance Payment - Login https://www.iiflonehome.com >Select "My Bid" > Click on Pay Balance Amount
Important Information: This auction is published basis possession vide Sec 13 (4) of SARFAESI Act. Physical possession will be offered post receiving of Section -14 order as per process laid down under SARFAESI Act and as and when physical possession will be taken. Bidder shall do necessary due-diligence in respect of documents and legality before participating in auction proceedings.

Terms and Conditions:-

1. For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider https://www. iiflonehome.com well in advance and must create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit the payment of the EMD prior to participation. Upon payment, bidders are required to submit the electronically signed E-Tender Form/Bid Form (E-Sign) using their Aadhaar Number.
2. The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case a bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
3. The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting EMD) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
4. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, costs associated with the conveyance or transfer of the land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
5. The purchaser has to pay TDS applicable to the transaction/payment of sale amount and submit the TDS certificate with IIFL HFL.
6. Bidders are advised to go through the website https://www.iiflonehome.com for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their Bids for taking part in the auction sale proceedings.
7. For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E mail ID:- care@iiflonehome.com, Support Helpline Numbers:@1800 2672 499.
8. For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IIFL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs. to 18:00 hrs. between Monday to Friday or write to email:care@iiflonehome.com
9. Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IIFL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
10. Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrower/s, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law.
11. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder / auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled, and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put for sale.
12. AO reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason thereof. In case of any dispute in tender/Auction, the decision of AO of IIFL-HFL will be final.

STATUTARY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up-to-date interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place : Bangalore | Date : 09-02-2026 — **Sd/-, Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified to general public that our clients, Smt. K.Lakshmamma, D/o Late M. Krishna Reddy; Smt.Veena R, W/o Late.Ramesh; Sri.Manish R.V. Reddy, S/o Late.Ramesh; Kumari.Divya R.V. Reddy, D/o Late.Ramesh being a minor represent by Smt.Veena R, Smt.Roopa, D/o.Late.M.Krishna Reddy, Sri.K.Babu S/o.Late.M.Krishna Reddy, Smt.Sindhu B, W/o.K.Babu, Kumari.Sanjana Reddy B.S D/o.K.Babu and Kumari.Mrudula Reddy B.S, D/o.K.Babu are being a minor represented by his natural guardian and father Sri.K.Babu, all are residing at No.51/2, Near Venugopalswamy Temple, Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, had executed General Power of Attorney dated: 09.02.2023, registered as Document No. BTM-4-00559-2022-23, stored in C.D No.BTMD1172, Book-4, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar (B.T.M. Layout), Bengaluru in favour of Sri. K.M.Prasanna Kumar, S/o. Late. K.C.Mallappa Reddy, in respect of schedule property. For non compliance of contractual obligations and also for various reasons. I revoked the General Power of Attorney dated dated: 09.02.2023 by issuing Legal Notice dated: 28.01.2026 to said Sri. K.M.Prasanna Kumar. Hence, the general public is hereby cautioned not to deal, negotiate, or transact in any manner whatsoever with Sri K. M. Prasanna Kumar in respect of the schedule property on the strength of the aforesaid General Power of Attorney dated 09.02.2023, as all powers conferred under the said GPA have been withdrawn and cancelled. Any person dealing with the said Sri. K. M. Prasanna Kumar in respect of the schedule property shall do so at their own risk, cost, and consequences. Aforesaid our clients shall not be responsible or liable for any acts done or transactions entered into by any person relying upon the revoked GPA.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.25/1 (Old Sy.No.25), measuring 2 Acres, situated at Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on:

East by	Land in Sy.No.24/2;
West by	Land in Sy.No.26/4;
North by	Land in Sy.No.26/2;
South by	Land in Sy.No.25/2.

BALACHANDRA Y S, Advocate, 113-F, 5-D, 5th Floor, Central Chambers, 2nd main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09. Contact No.: 9448240067.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the Genreal public that My client **Mr. ABHISHEK D KHER** S/o Dhananjaya Kher aged about 46 years, residing at #Flat-E1201, Nagarjuna Meadows, Phase-II, Doddaballapur Main Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore -560064. On-04-02-2026 my client lost the Agreement of sale dated 09-06-2014 and Agreement of construction dated 09-06-2014 in respect of the apartment bearing No.1201 on the 12th floor of E Block in the building Known as Nagarjuna Meadows-II,3BHK apartment with one Covered parking .he lodged the police complaint to that effect on 06-02-2026 vide lost report No.2048315/2026. Hence this is the notice to inform to the Genreal public that if any person and persons were come in the possession of the above documents the same may be returned. kindly forward to the undersigned. The finder will be suitably reward by the owner of the property.

G.R. RAVI CHANDRA REDDY. ADVOCATE
No.61,11th Cross, Kogilu,
Bangalore -560064. 985089115

IN THE COURT OF THE 82ND ACC & SJ COMMERCIAL JUDGE CCH-83 AT BENGALURU, TELEPHONE HOUSE BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR, RAJ BHAVAN ROAD AT BANGALORE-560001

Com. AP No. 168/2024

BETWEEN : Dr. H.K Nagaraj, Major, S/o late H. Krishna Reddy, R/at 29, 3rd Cross, 1st Main, HIG Colony, RMV II Stage, Bengaluru-560094.
...Petitioner
And : M/s Sukruthi Developers and others
...Respondent

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT No. 5 BY PAPER PUBLICATION

Smt. L. Kanyakuamari, Aged about 45 years, D/o Late M.G. Lokeshwara, W/o Manjunath Residing at No.466, 5th Cross, 7th Main, 1st Block, Kalyannagar, Bangalore 560043.
Whereas above named plaintiff has challenged Arbitration Award dated 06.08.2024 passed in the AC 641/2023 on file of the learned sole arbitrator, Justice (Retd) Sarvashri. Anand Byra Reddy by filing an arbitration appeal. Hence you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court **on 11.03.2026 at 11.00 am** either in person or through counsel duly instructed. Failing which the above case will be heard and determined in your absence placing you ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 27.01.2026.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, Commercial Court Unit, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
P.S. Ranghanathan and **GR Ananthaswamy,** Advocates 1030/A, 4th Main Road, II Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.

IN THE COURT OF THE LXXXII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU. (CCH-83)

Com. O.S. 1136/2024

Between : 1. Bharath Electronics Limited Registered Under the Companies Act 1956 Having office at Nagavara Outer Ring Road, Bangalore-560013. Represented by its Subrogee / Power agent (M/s United India Insurance Co Ltd., 3rd Floor, Indian Mutual Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.
2. United India Insurance Co Ltd., 3rd Floor, Indian Mutual Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.
2. M/s United India Insurance Co Ltd, 3rd Floor, Indian Mutual Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.
2. United India Insurance Co Ltd, 3rd Floor, Indian Mutual Building, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.
Both are Rep. by authorized Signatory Vineeta Pandey
AND : Air India **...Defendant**

Notice to Defendant by Paper Publication

Air India Registered Office at Air Lines House, 113, Gurudwara Rakabganj Road, New Delhi -110001, also at International Imports Domestic Opens, AI-SATS Building, KIAL, Devanahalli, Bangalore-560 300, Represented By its Manager. Phone : 080-65783425
WHEREAS the above named Plaintiffs have filed the suit for the relief of recovery in the sum of Rs.20,45,130.00 with interest at 12% P.A. and for such other relief. Hence you are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court on the said **11.03.2026 at 11.00 A.M.** either in person or through counsel duly instructed, failing which the above case will be heard and determined in your absence placing you exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 27.01.2026.

By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, Commercial Court Unit, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
P.S. Ranghanathan and **R. Ramesh,** Advocates 1030/A, 4th Main Road, II Stage, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010.

Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking
Head Office : Bangalore

ARM - 1 Branch, 2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, M G Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Email : cb2366@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic Possession** of which has been taken by the **Authorised Officer of ARM Branch-1 (2366), Bengaluru** of the **Canara Bank,** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 13.03.2026 (10.00 AM to 11.00 AM).**
The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS / NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan **on or before 12.03.2026 at 5.00 pm.**

Lot	Name and Address of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s)	Total Liabilities	Description of the immovable assets:	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Value
1.	**1. Shri Aditya Mahesh S/o. Late Maheshchandra,** 12/2, Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004. **2. Smt Shanthala H M** 12/02, Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560004. **3. Smt Vimala Basavaraju** F1, First Floor, "Benka Enclave", 1st Cross, 2nd Stage, KHB Colony, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore - 560057.	**Rs. 63,81,692.93/ (Rupees Sixty Three Lakhs Eighty One Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Two and Paisa Ninety Three Only) as on 05.02.2026 with further interest and cost thereon.**	**Schedule 'A' Property :-** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Properties bearing Site No. HIGHS24, Khatha No.26, PID No 21-98-26, Situated at House No. 24/26 at 1st Cross, 2nd Stage, KHB Colony, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bengaluru, Measuring : East to West 48 feets and North to South 77 feet, in all Measuring 3.696 Square feet and bounded by : On the **East :** HIG No. 23 Property, On the **West :** HIG No. 25 Property, On the **North :** HIG No. 17 Property, On the **South :** Road. **Schedule 'B' Property :-** 1/6th or 616 Square of undivided share, right, title and interest in the aforesaid Schedule "A" Property. **Schedule 'C' Property :-** All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment / Flat bearing No. F-1 on the First floor in the residential building known as BENEKA ENCLAVE having a Super Built Up Area Measuring 1,300 Square Feet, Constructed on the Schedule "A" Property along with the proportionate share in the common areas with all civic amenities.	₹ 131.50 Lakhs	₹ 13.15 Lakhs	₹ 1.00 Lakhs

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 08025310066,8598009010 and 9483544116 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 06.02.2026
Place : Bangalore
Sd/- Authorised Officer Canara Bank

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Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday dismissed what he called misinformation that the state government was planning to scrap the districts created by the previous BRS government

Centre creating artificial financial crunch for TN: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chennai

CHIEF Minister MK Stalin on Sunday accused the union government of artificially creating a financial crunch for the Tamil Nadu government by cutting allocations for centrally sponsored schemes, failing to release even the reduced funds properly, and bringing GST-related changes that have steadily eroded the state's tax revenue.

Speaking at a public meeting of JACTTO-GEO, the umbrella organisation for the associations for the state government employees and teachers, to thank him (CM) for announcing Tamil Nadu Assured Pension Scheme (TAPS), Stalin said the union government has been systematically shrinking the state's financial space by reducing tax devolution, curtailing funds for centrally sponsored schemes and delaying release of funds, while GST-related changes have further eroded state's own revenues. "We have been fulfilling the demands of the government employees by managing them (the union government) not only politically but also administratively," the CM added.

Stalin recalled that the old pension scheme demand had been pending for 22 years, ever since it was removed during the AIADMK regime. "This DMK, however, is one of empathy and inclusion. Accordingly, a committee was constituted, reports were submitted, ministers held consultations, and after considering employee welfare, fiscal realities and future obligations, the TAPS was announced," he said.

Members of JACTTO-GEO present a sengol to Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin during thanksgiving conference, at the YMCA grounds in Nandanam | MARTIN LOUIS

B'luru man found dead in Kochi cremated, kin vows legal action

Kochi: A Bengaluru native, who was found dead in a forested area here after being deported from Kuwait, was cremated on Sunday, police said. Suraj Lama (59) arrived in Kochi on October 5 after being deported from Kuwait, where he ran a restaurant. He was reportedly deported following memory loss caused by methanol poisoning. Lama went missing from the Ernakulam Government Medical College, Kalamassery, on October 10. His decomposed body was later discovered on November 30 in a forested area near the Hindustan Machine Tools premises. Police said DNA test results recently confirmed that the body was that of Lama. Officials said the body was released to the family earlier in the day and was cremated thereafter. "It has to be seen as a murder case. If the hospital had taken care of him, my husband would be alive today," she claimed, adding that she would file a complaint against the hospital. ENS

TECHNICAL GLITCHES CITED

TNPSC cancels group II & IIA main exams across Tamil Nadu

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

IN a first, the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPSC) on Sunday was forced to abruptly cancel Group II and Group IIA main examinations even as candidates in parts of the state were midway through the papers after hundreds of job aspirants took to the streets in Chennai protesting erroneous allocation of exam centres.

TNPSC Controller of Examinations A Shanmuga Sundaram, who had rushed to the spot to pacify protestors, blamed the issue on a technical glitch and said the exams would be reconducted soon with adequate notice. Opposition parties flayed the mismanagement, with AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami terming it "unprecedented".

As many as 9,457 candidates were scheduled to appear for the Group IIA Tamil Eligibility Test (descriptive) and the General Studies (objective) examination on Sunday. In addition, 1,126 Group II candidates were slated to write the Tamil Eligibility Test (descriptive).

Of these, 3,300 candidates were allotted to three examination centres in Chennai — DG Vaishnav College, Arumbakkam, Presidency College, Triplicane and the Government Arts College for Men, Nandanam. However, the examination centres were changed at the eleventh hour, leading to widespread confusion.

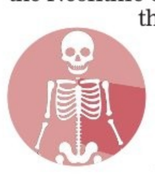
TNPSC defers Group 2 and 2A examinations at seven centres in Chennai following errors in the allocation of exam venues | EXPRESS

Skeletons were found in well-preserved condition

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

REMARKABLY, the skeletons were found in a well-preserved condition. Clear evidence of a burial practice involving the placement of stones over the bodies has also been observed, offering valuable insights into the social and cultural customs of the period.

Pottery fragments, microlithic tools and evidence related to early human tool usage were found around the skeletons. These findings suggest that the Tekkalakote may have been an important human settlement during the Neolithic or prehistoric period. Experts estimate that the skeletons could date back between 3,000 and 5,000 years. Officials have decided to subject the remains to carbon dating tests to determine their precise age. State archaeology department deputy director and director of the excavation R Shajeswar, visited the site and inspected the findings. He said the responsibility of preserving such a rare archaeological site for future generations rests with everyone. Dr Sugandhi first visited Tekkalakote for excavation work in 2019. In 2025, she made her second visit with the objective of preparing a research paper and presented a study titled Man and Environment Tekkalakote. She is currently engaged in the excavation for the third time.



In 1964, noted archaeologist MS Nagaraja Rao had conducted excavations at Tekkalakote, bringing global attention to the region's historical significance. It served as an inspiration for Dr Sugandhi and motivated her to select Tekkalakote for research.

Olive Ridley tourism comes as challenge for Karnataka

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

UNION Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's Budget proposal to develop turtle trails along key nesting sites in the coastal areas of Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala is a new challenge for Karnataka, which boasts of 18 beaches along its coastline.

One beach in Mangaluru, two in Udupi and 15 in Uttara Kannada have been identified and documented by forest department and experts working on Olive Ridley Turtles along Karnataka.

"Unlike in Odisha, where the turtles visit in lakhs annually to lay eggs, in Karnataka and along the western coastal states of Maharashtra and Goa, the visit of these turtles is sporadic. However, the season in all the locations is the same February-April. While tourism on the beaches is not restricted, we try to keep the nesting spaces away from tourists," said a Karnataka forest department official. "Now if tourism is to be encouraged, then non-intrusive methods will need to be adopted. These turtles come late in the night to lay eggs. During night hours tourists are not allowed to the beach. The subsequent day, the beach is closed for tourists until all the eggs are collected and secured," the official added. An official from Odisha said: "Two days of the year, these turtles come in lakhs, late in the night to lay eggs. These two dates are not fixed. So usually tourism is not encouraged during the time of their arrival, as we want to keep human footprint the least. However, during sporadic arrivals, tourists are welcomed. We need to understand what it means and how it needs to be done."

Night lights along the coasts have been removed, locals have been roped in, multiple conservation efforts including keeping scavengers and dogs away are being done.

LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I **MOHAMMED SAHIL ZAWAD**
S/O MOHAMED THAHIR B. S. No.9, B, BLOCK CRECENT MAGNA APPT. 6th CROSS, ATHMANANDA COLONY, R.T. NAGAR. BENGALURU-32
I HAVE LOST MY FATHER SALE DEED VIDE DOC. **No. MLV-1-01316-2011-12 ID 1361 SY. NO. 149/2 Reg date 02/07/2011/12** Police Complaint given Vide Lost Report No. 2048228/2026, Date 06/02/2026. If found please call 9538686786. **R.A. SHARIFF** ADVOCATS NO.411, 7th CROSS, H.MT. LAYOUT, R.T. NAGAR, Bangalore-32. Mo: 8861999700

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that I have lost the Original Property Documents is as follows: In respect of Site No.277 J.C. Nagar Slum W.O.C. Road Bangalore - 560079
1) Document No.263/90-91, in Book No. I Addl., Volume No 1113, in pages 140-144, on 17-04-1990/ 21-04-1990.
2) Document No. 1583, in Book No. I, Volume No. 2364, in pages 19 to 21, on 23-06-2000/24-06-2000, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagara, Bangalore.
3) Possession Certificate bearing P.C.R. No. 93/90-91, on 23-05-1990,
4) Document No.5597/2000-2001, in Book No. I, Volume No. 2442, in pages 238 to 243, on 19-02-2001, in the office of Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagara, Bangalore-560 010.
5) Document No. 7432/02-03, in Book No. I, stored in C.D. No. 16, 20-03-2003, in the office of Sr. Sub-Registrar, Rajajinagara, Bangalore-560 010.
6) If any original documents related to this property.
Any person or persons if found the above documents kindly contact **Sri. SURESH N. Mobile No. 98808 89051**

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIV ADDL. PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-6)
P & SC. No. 68/2026
BETWEEN : Sri. S.M. Harish S/o Late K.S. Murthy, Aged about 42 years, R/at No.20, 3rd Floor, 14th Cross, Opp. to D.C. Office, Cubbonpet, Bengaluru - 560 002.
...PETITIONER
AND : Nil ...RESPONDENT
NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that a person has been made to this court under section 372 of Indian Succession Act for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of the schedule property. If any parties are having any manner of claim, interest in the said claim they may appear before this Hon'ble Court either in person or through an agent **at 11.00 a.m. on 16.03.2026** failing which the above matter will be decided exparte.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the house property bearing Khatha No. 26/10, PID No.35-9-26/10, measuring East to West 30 feet and North to South 50 feet, situated at Marenahalli Village, 2nd Main Road, Ward No.35, BBMP, and bounded on:- **East by** : B.L. Krishnamurthy's Property, **West by** : Secretariat Colony, **North by**: Chikkabayanna's property, **South by :** Road.
Given under my hand and seal of this Hon'ble Court on the 04.02.2026.
By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.
Advocate for Petitioner :
M.V. Venkatesh, Advocate
having Office at No. 53, 1st Floor, 28th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-5600002.

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DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II
BSNL Building 4th Floor, Telephone House Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore–560 001.
O. A. No.685 OF 2022
Between: State Bank of India, Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Having its Office at No. 11/90, 3rd Floor , Near Old Shivaji Theater, JC Road, Bengaluru - 560 002. E-mail: sbi.05173@sbi.co.in, IFSC Code: SBIN0005173, Represented by its Officer
...Applicant
And
M/s. Ambal Advertising Agency, Represented by its Proprietor Mr. K. Harishkumar, No. 152/2-2, II Floor ,Wheeler Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru - 560 005.
...Defendant
NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23(VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993
Whereas, the Applicant has instituted an Application U/s 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery fo a sum of **Rs.2,12,38,211.00** (Rupees Two Crore Twelve Lakhs Thirty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Eleven Only) and other reliefs. The above defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorised agents in support of their defense to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **11.03.2026 at 10.30 A.M.** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted. Take notice that, in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **04.02.2026**
Sd/- Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal -II, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified to general public that our clients, Smt. Jayindra, W/o Late M. Srinivas Reddy; Sri. Umesh S, S/o Late M. Srinivas Reddy; Smt. Shalini B, W/o Sri. Umesh S; Master Devansh U Reddy, S/o Sri. Umesh S, being a minor represented by his natural guardian and father Sri. Umesh S; Sri. Chethan S, S/o Late M. Srinivas Reddy; and Smt. S. Nikitha, W/o Sri. Chethan S, all are residing at No.310, Aishwarya Silicon Apartment, Khatha No.78/11, Bellandur Main Road, Bellanduru, Bengaluru-560103, had executed General Power of Attorney dated: 09.02.2023, registered as Document No. BTM-4-00560-2022-23, stored in C.D No.BTMD1172, Book-4, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar (B.T.M. Layout), Bengaluru in favour of Sri. K.M.Prasanna Kumar, S/o. Late. K.C.Mallappa Reddy, in respect of schedule property. For non compliance of contractual obligations and also for various reasons. I revoked the General Power of Attorney dated 09.02.2023 by issuing Legal Notice dated: 28.01.2026 to said Sri. K.M.Prasanna Kumar. Hence, the general public is hereby cautioned not to deal, negotiate, or transact in any manner whatsoever with Sri. K. M. Prasanna Kumar in respect of the schedule property on the strength of the aforesaid General Power of Attorney dated 09.02.2023, as all powers conferred under the said GPA have been withdrawn and cancelled. Any person dealing with the said Sri.K. M. Prasanna Kumar in respect of the schedule property shall do so at their own risk, cost, and consequences. Aforesaid our clients shall not be responsible or liable for any acts done or transactions entered into by any person relying upon the revoked GPA.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No.25/2 (Old Sy.No.25), measuring 1 Acre 39 Guntas, and including 5 Guntas of Kharab land, situated at Vittasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on:

East by	Land in Sy.No.24/2;
West by	Land belonging to Gurreddy;
North by	Land in Sy.No.25/1;
South by	Land belonging to Chikkanna.

BALACHANDRA Y S, Advocate, 113-F, 5-D, 5th Floor, Central Chambers, 2nd main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-09. Contact No.: 9448240067.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka vide F.No. SEIAA 282 CON 2025 dated 23.01.2026 has issued Environmental Clearance to Mr. Akram Ahmed and Ms. Syeda Ayesha Siddiqa represented by GPA Holder Mr. Azhar Ulla Khan, for the Residential Apartment project Proposed in Sy. No. 85/2 of Doddahullur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District as per applicable provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.Copy of the clearance certificate is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Ministry at https://parivesh.nic.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public are hereby informed that my client has agreed to purchase the property, which is described in the schedule herein below from **Mrs. Sruthi Ravindran D/o K.N. Ravindran @ Kizhakke Naduvath Ravindran** residing at Varthur Main Road, Thubrahalli, Bangalore-560066, Any person or authority having any right/claim of any nature over the below schedule property or any portion thereof in any manner may lodge his/her/their claim/objection in writing to undersigned within 7 days hereof along with copies of all the documents being relied upon as otherwise, my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/objections from any persons.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing No. **E-104** bearing BBMP EPID No. 1978400485 formed in Schedule "G" Property in the layout known as **"MANYATA RESIDENCY",** measuring East to West 80 feet and North to South 50 feet, which is bounded on:-
East by: Site No. E-114, West by: Road, North by: Site No E-103, South by: Site No. E-105.
AVADHUTHA'S SOLICITORS
Chethan Kumar. K, Advocate
Office at New No.47, Old No.99, 3rd Floor, 4th Cross, 2nd Main Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore- 560020. Ph; 9591233633
Email : avadhuthassolicitor@gmail.com
Dated : 08.02.2026

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Govt of India undertaking)
Branch: Koramangala Layout
P B No.3421, No.348, 100 Ft Road, 4th Block, St John Medical College Post, Koramangala Layout, Ph: 9483520885, E-mail: cb0885@canarabank.com
Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.
To, **1. Mr. MAHESH KUMAR D** S/o Dattu Rao D, NO 119, Mahaveer Gardena Apart, 32nd Cross, Kumara Swamy Layout, J P Nagar, BANGALORE- 560078.

Loan Account No	NATURE OF LOAN/LIMIT	LOAN AMOUNT	LIABILITY WITH INTEREST AS ON DATE	RATE OF INTEREST
164002847960	Housing Loan Commercial Real Estate	Rs 58,00,000.00	Rs. 50,84,408.00/-	8.55% PLUS 2 % Penal Interest
164002871928	Home Loan Secure	Rs 2,00,598.00	Rs 1,85,516.00/-	8.10 PLUS 2% Penal Interest

The above said loan/credit facilities are duly secured by way of mortgage of the assets more specifically described in the schedule hereunder, by virtue of the relevant more documents executed by you in our favour. Since you had failed to discharge your liabilities as per the terms and conditions stipulated, the Bank has classified the debt as **NPA on 27-01-2026** Hence, we hereby issue this notice to you under Section 13(2) of the subject Act calling upon you to discharge the entire liability of to **Rs. 52,69,924.00 (Rupees Fifty Two Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Nine hundred and Twenty four Only)** Together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs, within sixty days or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the subject Act.
Further, you are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets mentioned in the schedule in any manner whatsoever, without our prior consent. This is without prejudice to any other rights available to us under the subject Act and/or any other law in force.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFESI Act, in respect of time available. To redeem the secured assets.
The demand notice had also been issued to you by Registered Post to your last known address available in the Branch record. But could not be served upon you, for the reason **"Un Delivered".** You are avoiding service of demand notice on you. Therefore, the contents of the demand notice are being published in this newspaper.
SCHEDULE
The Specific Details of the assets Mortgaged/Hypothecated are enumerated here under: The Title holder of below mentioned Immovable Property is Mrs. Mahesh Kumar D.
(Description of entire property on which Apartment being constructed)
SCHEDULE -A PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable residential converted land (converted vide official memorandum No ALN(A)-(HS)-SR-02/2011-12 dated 11-05-2011, issued by the special deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) bearing Sy No 216 situated at S Medahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk measuring 2.00 Acres and bounded on : **East by:** Narayana Reddys Land in Sy no:216, **West by:** Chikka Munireddys Land in Sy No:214, **North by:** Property bearing Sy No:215, **South by:** Road.
SCHEDULE-B PROPERTY
(Description of the undivided interest of land agreed to be conveyed)
670.05 Sq ft undivided share, Right, Title and interest and ownership in Schedule A Property, which is the corresponding undivided share in respect of Schedule C apartment unit.
SCHEDULE C PROPERTY
(Description of the apartment unit/ Flat agreed to be conveyed)
All that piece and parcel of one Flat/ Apartment unit i.e Flat no A-101 measuring a super built up area of 1489 Sq ft (Which is also inclusive of balconies and a proportionate share in built up area), situated in First floor, in A-Block(4BHK), with one covered Car parking Space in Surface Floor, in the residential apartment building known as **"ABAN DESIRE",** being constructed on the Schedule- A Property.
Postal Address of the property
Flat No A-101, in the first floor 'A' 'Block' of residential building known as**"ABAN DESIRE",** Situated ay Medihalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore 562125. **CERSAI Security ID 400066408382**
DATE: 05.02.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
PLACE: Koramangala Layout **Canara Bank, Koramangala Layout**

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited) | CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022
NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13 (2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002
The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co- borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	154363650	Home Loan	1. Mrs. Siddamma V 2. Mr. Venkatanarasimhaiah Kangappa	21.01.2026	INR 7,94,935.44/-
Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of Property Bearing No. 12 Having RDPR Unique Code No./property No. And E Katha No.152900400902600181 According To Form No.9 And 11a Issued By The Office Of The Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Gopahalli Grama Panchayathi, Situated At Gopahalli 2 Village, Ramanagara Taluk And District, Ramanagara, Karnataka-562109, Measuring East To West 9.144 Mtr And North To South 12.192 Mtr, In Total Measuring 111.48 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 111.48 Sq. Meters., And Bounded By : **North : Road, South : Land Of Venkatachalareddy, East : House Of Manjula, West : House Of Chikka Narasimhaiah.**					
2	152249349	Loan Against Property	1. Toogudeepu C 2. Parvathamma C	21.01.2026	INR 6,27,184.27/-
Property Address : All That Piece And Parcel Of The Property Bearing No. 107/88 Having RDPR Unique Code No./property No. And E-katha No. 152900400700820062 According To Form No. 9 And 11a, Issued By The Office Of Rural Development & Panchayath Raj, Byramangala Grama Pancahyathi, Situated At Chikkakuntanahalli Village, Taluk And District: Ramanagara, Karnataka-562109, Measuring East To West 9.7536 Mtr. And North To South 4.8768. Mtr., In Total Measuring 47.57 Sq. Meters And Thereon Building Measuring 47.57 Sq. Meters, And The Property Bounded As: **East By : House Of Krishnappa, West By : House Of Mariyamma, North By : House Of Nanjappa, South By : Road.**					

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc., within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to **IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)** . Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.
Sd/-
Authorized Officer
IDFC First Bank Limited
Date : 09.02.2026 **(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited**
Place : Ramanagara, Karnataka **and presently known as IDFC First Bank Limited)**

POSSESSION NOTICE
Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrowers(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	34019430001731	1) Mr. Dilip Kumar, 2) Mrs. Janaki, 3) Mr. Raju	12.11.2025 **Rs.4,38,551.43** (Rupees Four Lakh Thirty Eight Thousand Five Hundred Fifty One and Forty Three Paisa Only) **due as on 09-11-2025**	Date: 05-02-2026 Time: 04:22 PM Symbolic Possession
Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing No.45, New Ward No.21 situated at Cholanayakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore District and **Bounded by the: East by:** Road, **West by:** Private Property and Vendor's Property, **North by:** Site No.44, **South by:** Site No.46. Measuring 24 ft X 14 ½ ft.				
2	31879410000686 31879630000390 & 31879410001268	1) Mr. Ravi B, 2) Mrs. Jayamma	18.11.2025 **Rs.10,84,706.46** (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Six and Forty Six Paisa Only) **due as on 17-11-2025**	Date: 05-02-2026 Time: 03:08 PM Symbolic Possession
Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel for property bearing Site No.08, Sy.No.28/1, BBMP Khatha No.28/1/08, measuring East to West 20 feet and North to South 10 feet totally measuring 300 Sq.feet and a residential House property of about 3 Sq.ft area with AC sheet roof red oxide flooring and wooden doors and windows. Situated at A Block, present Doddachannappa Layout, Doddabommasandra Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bengaluru North Taluk and **Bounded on: East by:** Site No.07, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Site No.5, **South by:** Property of another portion of Plot No.08.				
3	45389430000931	1) Mr. C Shubha, 2) Mrs. P Radha, 3) Mr. Ramesh R	19.11.2025 **Rs.29,17,859.00** (Rupees Twenty Nine Lakh Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Nine Only) **due as on 17-11-2025** and interest thereon	Date: 05-02-2026 Time: 05:25 P.M Symbolic Possession
Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.09, Presently BBMP New Municipal No.9/1, situated at 1st Cross. Pillamma Block, Srirampura, 11th Division, now comes under the Limits of BBMP, Bangalore and **Bounded by the:** Measuring 23 X 30, **East by:** Remaining portion of same property, **West by:** Late Munidoddaiah's property, **North by:** Late Annayyappa's property, **South by:** Passage.				
4	47469410000648 & 47469430001173	1) Mrs. V Rathnamma/ Rathnamma Oblaiah, 2) Mr. Ravi Kumar C	28.10.2025 **Rs.9,06,334.06** (Rupees Nine Lakh Six Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Four and Six Paisa Only) **due as on 20-10-2025**	Date: 05-02-2026 Time: 02:42 PM Symbolic Possession
Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of property bearing portion Panchayat Katha No.19, Dasarahalli City Municipal Council of property bearing New No.81 CMC Old Katha No.64 New Katha No.356, situated at Kammagondanahalli, Village, Yashwanthpura Hobli Bangalore North Taluk Previously Dasarahalli C.M.C. Ward No.02 Presently Comes under the Limits of BBMP Ward No.12, Bangalore which is **Bounded by: East by:** Road, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Remaining Portion of the Same property, **South by:** Portion of the same property belongs to Mrs. R Sujatha & Mrs. Ramamma.				
5	45348640004008 & 45381060000029	1) M/s. Try Me Out, Represented by Prop. Mrs. Sri Lakshmi A, 2) Mrs. Sri Lakshmi A, Proprietor of M/s. Try Me Out, 3) Mr. Hemanth Kumar V, 4) Mr. Gnanendra A	21.11.2025 **Rs.74,03,146.00** (Rupees Seventy Four Lakhs Three Thousand One Hundred Forty Six Only) **due as on 16-11-2025**	Date: 04-02-2026 Time: 03:25 PM Symbolic Possession
Description of the Property: That entire piece and parcel of the Southern portion of the site bearing No.156, PID No.186-W0215-13, (earlier Site No.04 formed in Sarakki Village Sy.No.24/1, now under BBMP Ward No.186, Bangalore, now situated at 7th Cross, 33rd Main, Sarakki Kere, J P Nagar 6th Phase Bangalore-78, along with A C Sheet Roofed building. Item No.02. **East by:** Road, **West by:** Property belonging to Seenappa, **North by:** House belonging to Bhagyamma, **South by:** 4 Feet Common passage. Item No.02, East to West: 40 Ft and North to South: 12.6 ft.				

Whereas the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorised officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore	**Sd/- Authorised Officer,**
Date: 09.02.2026	**For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

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EDITORIAL

"Each scientific institute should have a public outreach programme. All the research you are doing is funded by the government. The government gets money from the people, so you owe something to the people

Jayant Narlikar

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

EXUBERANT CHASE FOR HIGH RETURNS IN METALS, CRYPTO UNSUSTAINABLE

THERE is a sudden meltdown across different asset classes around the world—barring equities, which have escaped the turmoil till now. Silver and gold, which saw a historic rise in prices in 2025, have come under pressure of late. The price escalation seen last year proved unsustainable as silver crashed from a peak of $125 an ounce in the last week of January to a low of $70 before closing around $77.

The virtual currency market is witnessing its share of volatility—a trend not unfamiliar to this asset class. Bitcoin is down 44 percent since its October peak of $125,000, while Ethereum has fallen 56 percent from its August peak of $4,800. The sharp rise and fall in bullion and cryptocurrencies are closely associated with uncertainty around US-led trade policies. At a granular level, there are specific reasons for the degree of decline in each asset class.

The lack of clarity on their regulatory status has weighed on cryptos even as institutional buying has picked up. The fall in gold and silver can be linked to the lower uncertainty around US trade policy than in 2025. Additionally, the US government's nomination of Kevin Warsh for the Fed chair has had a cooling effect on bullion. Warsh is expected to be less aggressive with rate cuts, fuelling bearish sentiment in both gold and silver. This has led to large-scale outflows from gold and silver exchange-traded funds, further reinforcing the bearish trend.

The unexpected rise in silver prices in 2025 was attributed to a growing demand-supply gap. Industrial use of silver has been rising, with demand from the solar energy and electronics sectors soaring. But at these price levels, the supply gap is expected to shrink, with demand for investment and jewellery likely to fall in 2026. Irrespective of the steady industrial demand for silver and other metals such as copper, such steep price rises are unsustainable beyond.

Investors who missed the metals rally in 2025 should not expect a similar run in 2026. The 'irrational' expectation of an encore from these metals should therefore be viewed with caution. Silver and copper are not the new gold, nor are virtual currencies. These are volatile asset classes, and investors should not treat an exceptional run in any of these as the new normal.

MENSTRUAL RIGHTS AS INSTITUTIONAL ASSURANCE

THE Supreme Court judgement on the right to menstrual hygiene as an integral part of the constitutional right to life and dignity provides a long-desired direction towards destigmatising an essential bodily function and ensuring basic care. While observing that the lack of basic facilities and the stigma around menstruation directly affect girls' health, education and privacy, the bench of Justices J B Pardiwala and R Mahadevan directed all states and Union territories to ensure within three months that every school has gender-segregated toilets, and biodegradable or reusable sanitary pads are provided for free to adolescent girls along with safe disposal facilities. The court also asked the governments to incorporate gender-responsive curriculums in schools and train the staff in assisting menstruating pupils.

The apex court's judgement and directions expose the socio-cultural and religious taboos perpetuated by patriarchal norms. Period shame is every girl's burden. The event of puberty, a milestone in human physiological evolution, is celebrated in many Indian traditions. But period ostracisation is so deeply prevalent in many sections that the victims of such misinformed belief and gender aggression are eventually socialised to become its carriers. The troubling apportioning of 'shame' continues through generations. For girls born into economically weaker families, sanitary pads are a luxury. Government schools, an ideal place to clear the misconceptions for both girls and boys, ignore this duty. To aggravate the insensitive attitude, their administrators often force hapless teenage girls to explain clothes stains as period blood, stripping them of dignity.

By one estimate, around 2.3 crore girls drop out of school annually on account of lack of adequate toilets and menstrual provisions. The launch of the Union health ministry's Menstrual Hygiene Scheme in 2011 was a landmark attempt to destigmatise menstruation by giving girls aged 10 to 19 subsidised pads and menstrual education. But it left out the adolescent girls who are out of school. The right to education is as fundamental a right as the right to live with dignity.

With the Supreme Court spelling out the nuances of the constitutional right of young girls in detail, it's time to fill the gaps. For that, government and private schools have to act in a timebound manner. And all three tiers of government have to ensure that awareness of the right as well as the health basics reach all sections of India—in every generation.

QUICK TAKE

MAYOR OF COOL

NO one can control a city's temperature. But that's not deterring rightwing critics of New York mayor Zohran Mamdani, who are blaming him for freezing temperatures and unmelted snow. Leading the blame game is one of the oldest tabloids in the US, *The New York Post*. It has published interviews of citizens who have blamed the mayor for troubles ranging from longer commutes to slipping on ice. Perhaps the right wing wants to make governance difficult for a self-proclaimed socialist with a penchant for unconventional messaging. At a recent press conference to announce childcare measures, he invited two pre-school kids and gave them a mini podium. When one of them shouted "Woo woo" into the mic, without skipping a beat, Mamdani said, "That's how I felt when we came up with this plan."

As the US, China and a few others have recognised, space-based capabilities are the ultimate force multiplier. We cannot be caught unprepared on a frontier being swiftly weaponised

SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT, INDIA MUST GUARD THE FINAL FRONTIER

MANISH TEWARI

MP, lawyer, former Union I&B minister and author of *A World Adrift*

SOURAV ROY

THE inexorable march of human conflict into the cosmos is no longer a subject of speculative fiction—it's a stark geopolitical reality. The serene void of outer space, once the exclusive domain of scientific exploration and peaceful cooperation, has been irrevocably transformed into a contested, congested and competitive arena central to national security.

For India, a nation whose security calculus is defined by contested borders and strategic competition in an era where dominance is defined by information, precision and the control of the celestial commons, the establishment of an operationally empowered Indian Space Force is an unavoidable strategic mandate for safeguarding national sovereignty in the 21st century.

The foundational argument for this assertion rests on a dual-axis framework: the use of space for terrestrial defence and the imperative for the defence of assets in space. The first paradigm leverages the orbiting sentinels that have become the central nervous system of modern warfare. From high-resolution synthetic aperture radar imaging that pierces clouds to monitor adversary movements and border infrastructure, to secure satellite communications that form the network of distributed command, to the precise geolocation services that guide everything from troop movements to smart munitions, space-based capabilities are the ultimate force multiplier.

For India, flanked by nuclear-armed adversaries engaged in their own rapid space militarisation, this 'space for defence' function is non-negotiable. The ability to maintain persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance over the northern and western borders is not an enhancement to security; it is its very bedrock in an age where threats can manifest with little warning.

However, to possess these capabilities is to paint a target on them. This leads to the second, and perhaps more complex, axis—the defence of space. Our orbital assets, both civilian and military, operate in a domain fraught with peril. The threats are dichotomous. On one hand, there exist the non-military hazards of space debris and the corrosive effects of cosmic radiation. On the other are the military threats wielded by adversarial states. These span the spectrum from non-kinetic attacks such as satellite communication jamming, GPS spoofing and cyber incursions into ground stations, to physical counter-space capabilities including direct-ascent anti-satellite missiles, co-orbital rendezvous and proximity operations by so-called 'inspector' satellites that can disable or degrade assets, and the potential for high-altitude detonations to induce crippling electromagnetic pulses.

The evidence of this new battlefield is unequivocal. The US, recognising the centrality of space to its military and economic hegemony, established a Space Force as a separate branch of its military. China, in a sweeping reform, consolidated its space, cyber and electronic warfare capabilities under the Strategic Support Force, which has since evolved into the PLA Aerospace Force. France has declared its intention to develop space-based weapons and Israel has demonstrated kinetic capabilities in the exo-atmospheric realm, with the first in-space combat recorded in November 2023. To believe India can navigate this domain through peaceful intent alone is a dangerous anachronism.

India's own armed forces are acutely aware of this new calculus. The Indian Air Force's 2022 doctrine explicitly identifies space-based assets as "new centres of gravity" and highlights vulnerabilities to hostile action. The release of a joint military space doctrine post the kinetic actions qua Pakistan in May 2025 is a step forward, but a doctrine without a dedicated, empowered institution to execute it is merely theoretical. The creation of tri-service agencies is a recognition of the problem, but it is an administrative fix, not a transformative one.

We possess the technological building blocks: proven anti-satellite capability, a robust and versatile satellite launch and fabrication ecosystem through Isro, and nascent but growing efforts in space situational awareness and simulated warfare exercises. Yet, our current approach—where efforts are dispersed across the Defence Space Agency, various wings of the armed forces and civilian research organisations—is institutionally nebulous. It leads to duplicated efforts, blurred lines of accountability and a slowed response time in a domain where decisions must be made at the speed of light.

The creation of a dedicated Space Force, whether as an independent service branch or a fully empowered and elevated command within the Indian Air Force is essential to centralise planning, accelerate capability development, foster deeper civil-military fusion with Isro and the private sector, and provide a clear career path for warriors specialising in this domain. It would streamline procurement, focus research on resilience and survivability, and create a unified culture of space power advocacy.

However, it cannot be born of executive fiat alone, as was the case with the Chief of Defence Staff. Such a path breeds ambiguity in command structures, strategic posture, accountability and long-term budgetary authority. The gravity of warfare in a domain governed by international treaties and holding catastrophic escalation potential demands the fullest measure of solemnity, democratic legitimacy and legislative oversight that only Parliament can confer.

Parliamentary process would provide the necessary and rigorous public and political debate on its mandate, its rules of engagement, its relationship with the civilian space programme under Isro, the department of space, and other existing services, ensuring the continuity of India's commitment to peaceful space exploration and its precise position within the national security architecture. A statute would provide unambiguous legal authority, ensure sustained funding and establish clear lines of accountability. It would signal to partners and adversaries alike that India's move is a considered, permanent and serious pillar of its national security strategy.

India has historically been a principled voice against the weaponisation of space and remains a party to foundational treaties like the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. Our participation in the Artemis Accords further underscores this commitment. However, it cannot be mistaken for unilateral disarmament or strategic naivete. A formally constituted space defence capability is the most effective deterrent against adversarial adventurism. To wait for a crisis would be a failure of statecraft. The time for India to formally establish its Space Force is not tomorrow. It is today.

(Views are personal)

(manishtewari01@gmail.com)

Full article on newindianexpress.com

ANCIENT WORLD'S PRIME MERIDIAN

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

MAHASHIVRATRI is on February 15, and I am tempted this week to revisit Shiva lore at Ujjain, where he is worshipped as Mahakaal.

The famous Nasadiya Sukta, in its creation theory, Rig Veda 10:129:3 says, *tama asit tamasa gulham agre 'praketa m salilam sarvam a idam/ tucchyenabhv apihitam yad asit tapasas tan, mahinajayataikam*, meaning, 'At first there was only darkness wrapped in darkness. All this was only unillumined water. That One which came to be, enclosed in nothing, arose at last, born of the power of heat.' Interpreted, this means that creation came about through life's longing for itself. But with life was born a longing for liberation. Tradition describes Ujjain as the first conscious witness to life's endless cycles of time.

Ujjain was first known as Avantika for its vana or forests of healing herbs gifted to Earth. But then there came the ambitious titan, Tripur. He performed terrible austerities to obtain a boon from Lord Brahma, that nobody could destroy him except by one arrow when the three planets that he ruled were in alignment. Secure in his supernatural power, Tripur unleashed great cruelty on Avantika.

Lord Shiva assured his helpless devotees that Tripur's end was close at hand. Then, as scripture describes it, the cosmos took on an unearthly glow. Earth took the form of a chariot. The sun and moon became its wheels. The mighty Himalayas became the bow. And on this bow, Lord Vishnu himself became the arrow. And thus, Lord Shiva took aim and destroyed the three planets. With that, he destroyed Tripur. This feat was celebrated in theology forevermore as 'Tripurardhan'.

Tripur was less than a straw for Mahadev's might. Nevertheless, to refresh creation with a sense of purpose, he let this cosmic drama take place. He bestowed on mankind a great sense of moral victory. This outstanding victory or *uchhitam vijay* is now remembered forever in the city's name as 'Ujjain'. It upholds the city's ancient pre-eminence as time's witness.

But Ujjain's innate lustre made it a coveted prize. The next assault on this holy site was by a demon called Dushan. When Lord Shiva saw Dushan advancing as *kaal* or death on his devotees, he destroyed Dushan with just one fiery breath, as Mahakaal. Mahakaal means both 'the death of death' and 'time', a richly layered word also meaning 'immortality' and 'infinity'.

Lord Shiva graciously agreed to abide forever in Ujjain in his form as Mahakaaleshwar, the Lord of Eternity. He became a marvelous pillar of light, a *jyotirlinga*. A naturally-manifested stone lingam represents him as Mahakaaleshwar.

Over time, other divinities added their lustre to Ujjain. The Panch Kos or pilgrim circuit of Ujjain takes us through an energy field of eighty-four temples.

X.COM

Home to the foremost of the 12 jyotirlingas, Ujjain is the city believed to be the forever abode of Lord Shiva as Mahakaaleshwar. The city is crowned with innate lustre which attracted countless assaults, yet it welcomes pilgrims seeking liberation by thousands every year

This pilgrim circuit symbolises a spiritual journey of redemption, for the belief goes that it is Lord Shiva who puts us into the cycle of birth and death and it is he who removes us from it. Liberation is achieved only through his grace and mercy.

Moreover, Mahakaaleshwar is the foremost of the 12 *jyotirlingas* that hold up the sacred geography of India from Kedarnath to Rameswaram. Ujjain is believed to be the lynchpin of these energy fields. While the Puranas speak of Ujjain's supernatural attributes, the poet Kalidasa composed a lyrical *arati* in which he pictures all creation singing and dancing in praise of Lord Shiva at Ujjain.

But just as creation has no meaning without Nature, Shiva is incomplete without Shakti. Her presence here is consecrated at the Harsiddhi Shaktipeeth temple. It commemorates the site where Sati's elbow is believed to have fallen, and the Gadkalika temple marks where her upper lip fell. This link with the goddess added the power of *siddhi* or enlightened understanding to Ujjain, and it became a place of intellectual attainment. So much so that Sri Krishna was sent to study here with his brother Balarama at Rishi Sandipani's gurukul.

In 57 BC, King Vikramaditya of Ujjain won a famous victory over the Shakas. He founded a new era in commemoration. Ahead of the Gregorian calendar by 57 years, the Vikram Era or Vikram Samvat is still in use as the Indian calendar, reinforcing Ujjain's identity as the prime meridian of the ancient world.

Ujjain carried on happily through several more eras but sustained grievous harm when Iltutmish razed it in 1234-35 AD. Its fortunes ebbed and flowed thereafter like the river Shipra's waters by which it stands, until Maratha rule in the 18th century, when Mahakaal's temple was rebuilt. Many new temples and ghats came up. Conches and bells began to sound again and sacred chants were recited. The people's unshaken belief was justified that though Ujjain might suffer attacks, Dharma would eventually be restored.

Another cycle of remembrance began, a new round of festivals and feasts, of rejoicing in the aura of Ujjain. But then, renewal is the very essence of Ujjain.

The stars are in alignment every twelve years over Ujjain for the Kumbh Mela, known locally as Simhast or 'Leo in the ascendant'. It is believed that the constellations above are represented on earth by the city's temple geography. The next Simhast will happen between 9 April and 9 May, 2028.

The tradition of countless pilgrims throughout the year is to follow the Panch Kos circuit, have a cleansing dip in the Shipra and then step forth in surrender to Mahakaal. Will it grant them liberation? Ujjain is where they get to ask Lord Shiva. So too may everyone else, wherever they may be, on the holy night of Mahashivratri.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Scale India

Ref: *Missing engines* (Feb 8). To address India's limits, the government could focus on practical steps—easing regulatory hurdles for scale, strengthening intellectual property protection, encouraging research and development through targeted incentives and supporting skill development in high-growth sectors. Such measures, implemented steadily, would help build home-grown global champions over time.

A Myilsami, Coimbatore

Handling US

Ref: *What's in the deal?* (Feb 8). The deal's framework highlights the success of Centre's painstaking and patient dealing with the 'my way or highway' US president. The US has lately kept India in the doghouse and blind faith would be naive and gullible.

Aanya Singhal, Noida

GST anomaly

Ref: *Cong's 1 book versus BJP's 100* (Feb 8). Nishikant Dubey might first try locating functional libraries, starting with his own state. Availability of books critical of Nehru neatly punctures censorship claims. But the real comedy is in GST: books are 'tax-free', while paper, printing and royalties are taxed without input credit. The outcome is predictable: expensive books, exhausted publishers and MPs loudly debating everything except the problem.

N Nagarajan, Secunderabad

Justice denied

Ref: *Booked cop dies* (Feb 8). The constable's delayed acquittal and the pendency in Pappu Yadav's case—for the same long period—exposes a mockery of a judicial system. What is the purpose of a legal framework in place other than enabling lawyers to thrive?

R Kasthurirangan, Bengaluru

Sky-high knock

Ref: *India look up to SKY* (Feb 8). Sky is the limit for Surya "SKY" Kumar Yadav. The batter's smashing shots in the last overs turned the match's tide. T20 cricket should rightly be renamed 'see-saw battle' cricket.

P V P Madhu Nivriti, email

T20 mania

Ref: *The other cricket* (*The New Sunday Express Magazine*, Feb 8). With the advent of T20, the milch cow that cricket has been in the subcontinent turned into a goose that lays golden eggs. A welcome fallout is that cricket moved away from big city stadia to tiny playgrounds of the hinterland. A regulation is must to govern the money.

George Jacob, Kochi

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POSTS OF THE DAY

K C Venugopal @kcvenugopalmp
An official BJP handle posted a video showing the targeted, 'point-blank' murder of minorities. This is nothing but a call to genocide - a dream this fascist regime has harboured

Sagarika Ghose @sagarikaghose
The @BJP4India Assam has committed a UAPA offence and is guilty of clear incitement to violence. Can't get away with deleting the ad

Kiren Rijiju @KirenRijiju
Congress was in power for 60 Years! They don't know how to live without power. Just like the condition of fish, when they are taken out of water

Sharma says it's not clear if details are still being negotiated • Farmers safe, opportunities to open up, says minister

'It's no agreement, just a framework'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

This is unacceptable. Have we surrendered sovereignty? You cannot be subservient to US interests. This raises fundamental questions beyond trade

Anand Sharma, Ex-Union Minister

QUESTIONING the 'ambiguity' surrounding the interim trade framework announced by India and the US on Saturday, former Union Minister Anand Sharma said that the concerned Union ministers are speaking in different voices on the issue.

Speaking to this newspaper, Sharma, who served as Commerce Minister during the UPA government, sought to know whether the deal has been signed or if its details are still to be negotiated.

"It is not even an interim agreement. It is merely a 'framework for an interim agreement'. I have never seen such an arrangement. Where are the details? The minister is talking in thin air," he said.

Sharma said the US executive order stating that India will no longer import Russian oil and that its compliance will be monitored by the US, has undermined the country's sovereignty. Neither the Ministry of Commerce nor the Ministry of External Affairs has clarified the US claim, he said.

"This is unacceptable. Have we surrendered sovereignty? You cannot be subservient to US interests. This raises fundamental questions beyond trade about India's sovereignty and commitment to the multilateral trade regime and leadership of the Global South," he said.

On India's commitment to buy $500 billion worth of US goods in the next few years, he said, "Since India's latest annual imports from the US are approximately 45 billion dollars and global merchandise imports, including petroleum and gas, are $700 billion, how could India make such an incredulous long term commitment?"

Taking strong exception to Union Minister Piyush Goyal's comments on UPA-era trade pacts and palm oil imports, Sharma pointed out that the minister made the remarks on the day PM Modi landed in Malaysia as part of India's ASEAN outreach.

'Shameful surrender', says Left

Left parties hit out at the Centre for the India-US trade deal stating that it is an attack on the country's sovereignty and "shameful surrender." They sought complete details of the agreement to be presented before Parliament.

Deal a nation-first approach: Shivraj

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

This deal sends a message to the world that India's policy is one of commitment, not compromise. We take decisions in the interest of the country with full confidence.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister

WHILE describing the India-US trade deal as historic and unprecedented, Union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Sunday that the deal isn't merely a trade agreement, but also symbolises India's rising global prestige.

"The deal is an excellent example of diplomacy, development, and dignity. Diplomacy means nation first, and in this agreement, India's national interests have been placed at the forefront. Development, i.e., the steps being taken towards a developed India (Viksit Bharat)—this deal also provides a strong foundation for that purpose. Dignity means the dignity of the farmer, and I am proud that full attention has been paid to the farmer's dignity in this agreement," Chouhan told journalists in Bhopal on Sunday.

The former MP CM further remarked that all concerns in the country's mind regarding Indian agriculture and farmers have been addressed in this trade deal.

"This agreement keeps our farmers completely secure. The deal is not limited to mere security; it also opens the doors to new opportunities. This trade deal will provide new opportunities for our agricultural products in the global market and will play a crucial role in increasing farmers' incomes. This is the strong foundation of Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat."

"This deal sends a message to the world that India's policy is one of commitment, not compromise. We take decisions in the interest of the country with full confidence. India is moving forward on the international stage with a balanced and positive strategy. We do not engage in the politics of bargaining; instead, we adopt a balanced strategy and believe in positive dialogue. This is precisely why today India is emerging as a reliable and strong partner at the global level."

Zero tariffs on some exports

Chouhan said that many Indian agricultural products will now be exported to the US at zero tariffs. However, American farmers' agricultural products will not receive this concession in the Indian market.

INSIDER TRACK

Cabinet rejig buzz comes back

Surprise has quietly become the BJP's preferred operating system. If uncertainty were currency, the saffron corridors would be positively flush. Once again, speculation is back in fashion—this time over an "imminent" Union cabinet reshuffle. With the first phase of the Budget session set to end on April 2, the rumour mill says Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has a habit of linking such moments with cabinet exercises, may spring yet another surprise soon after. Sources hint the reshuffle could be performance-based—which is a polite code for underperformers being shown the door to make way for younger faces. A familiar list of ministries is doing the rounds, from cooperation and agriculture to law, finance and minority affairs, mostly at the level of minister of state, with a few Cabinet tweaks to accommodate allies like the JD(U) and RLP. As one BJP leader quipped, "It's expected—the surprise is when and how." And, of course, the organisation and media wings may be the next.

Top-down turns bottom-up

A twist in paramilitary appraisal rules—juniors are now reviewing seniors. Yes, really. The CRPF Directorate General (Organisation) issued an order on February 4, allowing Group B officers to provide inputs on the performance of their Group A bosses. Annual evaluations, usually top-down affairs, are suddenly getting a "from the trenches" perspective. Imagine the mess halls buzzing: "Wait, my junior is grading me?" Some are calling it a bold reform, others call it a brave new bureaucracy. Within the paramilitary, the move is seen as a step toward ground-level feedback and shaking up traditional hierarchies. And honestly—try this in the IAS or IPS, and the passive-aggressive post-it notes alone would need their own task force.

Bittu's got laddoos in both hands

Politics, like cricket, has a way of turning dropped catches into match-winning moments. Ravneet Singh Bittu seems to be a living proof. After a sharp verbal exchange with Rahul Gandhi outside the new Parliament building—where Gandhi labelled him a "gaddar"—Lady Luck appears to have quietly taken Bittu's side. Inside saffron circles, that single word is now being described as a political Sanjeevani. With Bittu's Rajya Sabha term ending on June 21 and his MoS (Railways) profile not exactly setting the House on fire, a second term had looked uncertain. Until, of course, the retort came: Bittu declaring he would never stand with "desh ke dushman". The plot thickened when Prime Minister Narendra Modi jumped in during the Rajya Sabha speech, framing the remark as an insult to the Sikh community—instantly boosting Bittu's stature as a key Sikh face in the BJP. With Punjab elections due in 2027, a BJP leader summed it up neatly: "Bittu ji ke dono haathon mein laddoo."

Glitch rattles SAIL rumour mills

It turns out even Maharatna PSUs are at the mercy of temperamental servers. For a few jittery hours, the steel industry was abuzz after the name of SAIL chairman and managing director Amarendu Prakash quietly vanished from the Public Enterprises Selection Board website. No press release, no farewell speech, just a digital disappearing act. Naturally, the speculation machines went into overdrive. Was this the start of a top-level shake-up at the Steel Authority of India Ltd? A sudden corporate coup? Or simply another case of bureaucratic suspense without popcorn? As it happens, the culprit was far less dramatic: a server-related technical glitch. Once Prakash's name reappeared on the portal, calm was restored, and the conspiracy theories were politely escorted out. Still, the episode was a reminder of how twitchy the ecosystem around Maharatna appointments can be. For a brief window, the glitch handed fresh talking points to Prakash's critics, despite his tenure running comfortably till April 2, 2026. Moral of the story: in Delhi, even a missing line can move so much.

Govt upset with CPWD, other agencies for not using construction waste

PARVEZ SULTAN @ New Delhi

DESPITE repeated reminders by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) and other implementing agencies have failed to improve the utilisation of recycled construction and demolition (C&D) waste products. In a fresh communication, the CPWD has expressed concern over the continued shortfall in annual off-take of recycled C&D products, calling the gap between targets and achievements detrimental to the outcomes of the national C&D waste management framework.

MoHUA had set an annual off-take target of one lakh metric tonnes (MT) for CPWD for 2025-26 but utilisation reported by field units remains below one-third of the mandated level.

In the note adressed to officials concerned, the CPWD pointed out that certain divisions, particularly in Delhi-NCR, have reported zero usage. According to officials, the two regional heads in-charge of planning, execution, and maintenance of central government infrastructure projects—Special Director General (SDG), Chandigarh and Additional Director General (ADG), Lucknow—were assigned a target of 2,500 MT each but failed to achieve it. Similarly, ADG (Delhi), given a target of 5,000 MT, also failed to meet the target.

According to officials, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has already raised concern regarding low off-take by organisations under MoHUA.

The ministry had recently asked CPWD to depute officers to inspect inventory management practices at C&D waste processing plants and verify sale invoices or bills of recycled C&D waste materials.

4 Indian students injured in stabbing incident in Russia

S LALITHA AND HARPREET BAJWA @ New Delhi/Chandigarh

FOUR Indian students were injured, one of them critically, in a stabbing attack inside the hostel premises of Bashkir State Medical University (BSMU) in Russia's Ufa city on Saturday evening. Indian Consular officials from Kazan on Sunday visited the four students at the hospital where they were taken after the stabbing incident. "They are stable and recovering well," the Indian Embassy in Moscow said.

The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure justice to the attacked students. "Gaurav, a native of Maharashtra who was stabbed in the abdomen, is critical and in hospital. Avinash, Harideep and Harshwardhan are the other injured students," said Dr Mohammad Momin Khan, national representative of AIMSA.

Russian investigators said a 16-year-old student of a local school, armed with a knife, entered the university dormitory and attacked the students living there. Resisting arrest, the attacker also wounded two police officers and the hostel guard.

Nearly 3,000 Indian students pursue medical courses in BSMU. Khan said students informed him that the attacker had initially set off a firecracker which exploded loudly, forcing some students to rush out of their rooms. This newspaper spoke to a IIIrd year MBBS student, staying in the BSMU dormitory where the attack took place.

Requesting anonymity, the student said, "My friends and I had just entered our rooms in the hostel after purchasing groceries. We suddenly heard a loud noise and desperate screams from some students and rushed out. A youngster with a knife was charging at a few students. Many students who came out rushed inside their rooms and locked themselves inside out of fear." He added, "The attacker looked mentally unstable or was probably very drunk." Some students managed to take a few videos of the incident from the windows of their rooms. Video footage of the incident released by AIMSA showed much blood on the floor and shattered glass pieces after the attack.

According to Russian Telegram channel Baza, the attacker was allegedly a staunch supporter of a neo-Nazi organisation that is designated a terrorist organisation and banned in Russia.

'Many locked themselves inside room out of fear'

Requesting anonymity, a student said, "My friends and I had just entered our rooms in the hostel after buying groceries. We suddenly heard a loud noise and desperate screams from students and rushed out. A youngster with a knife was charging at a few students. Many students who came out, locked themselves inside out of fear."

Govt forms expert groups for upgrade of 50-year-old Project Tiger scheme

JITENDRA CHOUBEY @ New Delhi

THE Centre has established four working groups to review all policy decisions made over the past five decades regarding tiger conservation. This initiative coincides with the completion of 50 years of the successful Project Tiger.

Launched in 1973, Project Tiger aimed to protect the animal and its habitat. The project has helped significantly increase the tiger population, creating numerous tiger reserves, and enhancing overall ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has overseen the project and conducted a total of 28 policy meetings to implement various programmes and decisions.

Each of the four working groups will focus on a different tiger zone: North, South, East, and West. Their role is to analyse past policy decisions related to tiger conservation over the last 50 years and prepare reports that evaluate the current relevance of these policies, identify outdated practices, and recommend new policies for the next 25 years.

Additionally, the groups will examine region-specific challenges, trends in tiger populations, their prey bases, factors contributing to population changes, the needs of frontline staff, and gaps in the execution of centrally sponsored schemes. The working groups are expected to submit their reports before the 29th NTCA meeting.

"Such analytical reports will assist tiger conservation policymakers in adapting to current challenges and ensuring effective implementation of conservation measures on the ground," stated Bhupendra Yadav, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, during a conference with Chief Wildlife Wardens of Tiger Range States and Field Directors of Tiger Reserves in Alwar.

Moreover, the minister urged participants to discuss ways to enhance coordination between the NTCA and key institutions such as the Wildlife Institute of India, the Botanical Survey of India, the Zoological Survey of India, and the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education.

NEW INITIATIVE

1. Four working groups of experts to assess 50 years of tiger conservation programme and policies
2. Each group to assess the trend of tiger populations, prey base and list reasons for changes
3. Will analyse present day requirements like frontline field staff, effectiveness, and gaps in centrally sponsored schemes
4. Bring coordination between the NTCA and key institutions

'Ayush now a pillar of national health ecosystem'

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

MORE than 30% hike in Ayush budgetary allocation in the past two years showcases how India is placing integrative healthcare at the centre of the country's development journey, Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav said.

"Ayush is no longer seen merely as a traditional practice. It is now firmly positioned as a vital pillar of our national health ecosystem," the Union Minister of State (independent charge) told this newspaper.

Highlighting the steady rise in budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (Ayush), the minister said the budget increased by 20.56% from ₹3,312 crore in 2024-25 to ₹3,992.9 crore in 2025–26. "It further rose by 10.42% from ₹3,992.9 crore in 2025–26 to ₹4,408.93 crore in 2026–27," he said.

Jadhav said the hike reflects the government's sustained commitment to strengthening integrative healthcare. "This steady rise underscores expanding infrastructure, enhanced research capacity, quality assurance mechanisms, and global outreach initiatives. The increased allocation is expected to significantly improve service delivery, promote innovation, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and expand access to Ayush services across rural and urban India," he said.

"This year's Budget also reflects the growing global confidence in India's traditional systems of medicine," said Jadhav. The minister also said that in the past decade, Ayush has witnessed unprecedented growth in infrastructure, education, digital outreach, and global recognition. "This Budget accelerates that momentum—moving from expansion to excellence—ensuring that prevention, lifestyle management, and holistic wellness stand alongside conventional clinical care in shaping a healthier India," he added.

In the Union Budget 2026-27, Ayush got special focus, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing the setting up of three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda and upgrade of AYUSH pharmacies and drug testing labs for higher standards of certification ecosystem.

To promote India as a hub for medical tourism, Sitharaman also proposed a scheme to support states in establishing five Regional Medical Hubs in partnership with the private sector. "These hubs will serve as integrated healthcare complexes that combine medical, educational and research facilities. They will have AYUSH Centres, Medical Value Tourism Facilitation Centres and infrastructure for diagnostics, post-care and rehabilitation," she said.

Hailing the announcements of three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda, five regional medical value tourism hubs with integrated Ayush centres, and the strengthening of allied health and caregiver training, Jadhav said this marks a "defining moment" for India's healthcare architecture.

The Ayush sector's educational base has been expanding substantially, with 932 undergraduate and 254 postgraduate Ayush colleges and institutions currently operational across the country, ensuring a robust pipeline of skilled professionals and researchers.

Special focus on Ayush in this year's Budget

In the Budget this year, Ayush got special focus, with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announcing the setting up of three new All India Institutes of Ayurveda and upgrade of AYUSH pharmacies and drug testing labs. She also proposed a scheme to support states in establishing five Regional Medical Hubs in partnership with private sector.

DARBHANGA SHOCKER

A six-year-old girl was found dead in Bihar's Darbhanga district, following which her family alleged that she was sexually assaulted and murdered. The incident happened on Saturday.

2 DEAD IN BUILDING COLLAPSE IN RAJASTHAN'S KOTA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	29	17	Mumbai	30	24
Bhopal	27	14	Panaji	33	22
Jaipur	25	14	Patna	25	12
Amritsar	21	09	Lucknow	24	10
Chennai	29	22	Port Blair	30	25
Kolkata	27	16	Imphal	25	09
Srinagar	07	-1	Chandigarh	21	11

Don't let Naxals move to new areas, Shah tells agencies at review meet

Home minister evaluates security grid ahead of approaching deadline to end Maoist threat

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai during a review meeting on anti-Naxal operations in Raipur on Sunday | PTI

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that a combination of the government's security-centric strategy, infrastructure development, disruption of Maoist financial networks, and the surrender policy has produced positive results in the fight against Left-wing extremism (LWE).

Reiterating that the Naxal menace will be completely eradicated before March 31, Shah emphasised that the fight against Maoists must not be scattered. Chairing a high-level security meeting in Raipur, he directed Central and state agencies to maintain a seamless "grid" of intelligence and operations to ensure that Maoists squeezed out of one region cannot find sanctuary in neighbouring states.

Addressing the meeting, Shah said, "Chhattisgarh was once a stronghold of Naxal violence, but it has now become a symbol of development in the double-engine government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi." He said youths of Chhattisgarh have been progressing in sports, forensic science, and technical education while preserving their culture and traditions. He said Naxalism has pushed many generations into the darkness of poverty and illiteracy. "The double-engine government has been leaving no stone unturned to completely eradicate the menace of Naxalism from the country, and it has reached the verge of its end," Shah said.

He added that Chhattisgarh has made remarkable progress on both the security and development fronts, emphasising equal developmental opportunities for people living in Naxal-affected areas. Shah also chaired a review meeting regarding various development works in Chhattisgarh, the release said. "In the Modi government, the focus is equal on security and opportunity," Shah stated, reiterating that people in Naxal-affected zones must have the same access to progress as the rest of the country.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, the Union Home Secretary, the Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Special Secretary (Internal Security) in the Ministry of Home Affairs attended the meeting, a government statement said. Directors general of the CRPF, BSF, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and National Investigation Agency (NIA), as well as DGPs of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Telangana, and senior officers also attended.

CM Sai said the 'double-engine' government's integrated strategy—combining precise security operations with infrastructure expansion and a crackdown on Maoist financial networks—is yielding visible results. Sai said Chhattisgarh is moving rapidly to achieve the Naxal-free target by March 31 under the leadership of PM Modi and guidance of Shah.

Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, comprising seven districts, shares borders with Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, and has long been considered the strongest bastion of Maoists. However, the region has witnessed intensified anti-Naxal operations over the past few years, considerably weakening the extremist movement.

Since January 2024, more than 500 Naxalites, including top cadres such as CPI (Maoist) general secretary Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavaraju, have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh, while around 1,900 Naxalites were arrested and over 2,500 surrendered during the same period in the state, according to police.

Vijay Sharma stated, "Sunday meeting was the last crucial review amid the presence of top officials (Home/DGP) from different states in Raipur to decide future strategy."

On Monday, Shah will attend the conclusion ceremony of the three-day cultural extravaganza, 'Bastar Pandum Mahotsav', at in Jagdalpur, south Chhattisgarh.

MP-Raj border turns into ecstasy hub, police seize drugs worth ₹13 crore

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

DISTRICTS of western MP and adjoining southeastern Rajasthan, which have since long formed the opium cultivation belt and smuggling route of the country, are now emerging as the hotspots of illegal manufacturing and smuggling of MDMA synthetic drug.

The latest inter-state MDMA manufacture-smuggling racket has been busted in Surjana village on western MP's Mandsaur district's Garoth area -- located close to the backwaters of the Gandhi Sagar Dam.

Built on the river Chambal on the MP-Rajasthan border, the Gandhi Sagar Dam is neighboured by the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, which is the second home to African cheetahs in India. Acting on inputs, over 80 policemen from eight police stations of Mandsaur district raided the village on Saturday night and busted the MDMA manufacturing unit.

"We've seized the chemical mix (crude MDMA) which was readied for preparing the finished MDMA. Two men have been arrested along with more than 12.6 kg of chemical mix. The arrested men, during initial questioning, have revealed about being in the illegal business for around two years and running the illicit MDMA unit in the concerned village since the last few months," DIG-Ratlam Range Nimish Agrawal said on Sunday.

"We're now working at finding the backward and forward linkages (raw material/chemical supply route and the route for smuggling the finished MDMA) to penetrate deeper into the inter-state network," Agrawal added. The seized chemical mix, crude MDMA and equipment are reportedly worth around ₹13 crore. This is the second MDMA inter-state racket with a base in villages close to the Gandhi Sagar Dam's backwaters busted in less than four months.

Not 1st case, similar racket was busted in Nov '25

This is the second MDMA inter-state racket having its base in villages close to the Gandhi Sagar Dam's backwaters, which has been busted by the police in less than four months. On November 28, a similar racket was busted in Lasudiya Hastmurar village of western MP's Neemuch.

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
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After Ajit's untimely death, Pawars talk unity

Following the sudden death of Ajit Pawar, the Pawar family is holding a series of meetings in Baramati. Ajit Pawar's elder son Parth Pawar closely follows and listens to his grandfather Sharad Pawar. Shattered by his father's death, Parth expects his 85-year-old grandfather to come up with a solution that would be acceptable to all. The NCP wants to retain its hold in the government and in the party also even despite a potential party merger. Pawar family has come to a conclusion that if they remain divided, then, it would be difficult for them to survive. Therefore, they need to remain united to sustain in the long run.

Fadnavis asks officers to work for $5 tn economy

Soon after assuming the charge of the finance ministry, CM Devendra Fadnavis has asked the officers in the finance department to work in tandem to achieve the ambitious target of five trillion economy. Fadnavis, who is apparently aspired a prominent national leadership role, aims to showcase Maharashtra's development model, similar to how Narendra Modi presented the Gujarat model ahead of 2014 general body elections. After projecting himself as the "metro man" and "infra man" Fadnavis now wants to add another feather in his cap by achieving the $5 trillion economy target. He has also formed a team to achieve the target.

Congress to launch talent hunt programme

Despite facing setbacks in electoral politics, the Congress has resolved to develop a large resource pool of talent that can showcase the India's oldest political party legacy in right way along with secular and progressive ideology. As part of this exercise, the party needs the talented people who are committed to ideology so they have started the talent hunch programme. The selection of the candidate will be based on their knowledge on economy, politics, international relationships, trade deals. Targeting the youth, an oral test will be also conducted to test the fluency of the candidates in English, Hindi and regional language.

KUKI-NAGA

Manipur district issues prohibitory orders after clash

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

TWO tribal groups reportedly engaged in intense stone-pelting in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Sunday evening, prompting the administration to issue prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS.

Ukhrul District Magistrate Asish Das said the prohibitory orders had been issued over apprehension about breach of peace and public harmony in the Litan area of the district. The decree prohibits the movement of any person outside their residence and activities that may disturb peace. Further, the administration has requisitioned the deployment of Army and paramilitary forces.

Tension had been simmering between Kuki-Zo and Naga villagers in Litan since Saturday night, after a member of the Tangkhul community was allegedly assaulted by a group of Kuki-Zo tribals. Residents across several Naga villages in the region are now demanding that the perpetrators be brought to book.

Locals in Ukhrul, which is a Naga-majority district, told this newspaper that the situation remained tense.

80-year-old protesting illegal construction dies in assault, TMC leader held

SUBHENDU MAITI @ Kolkata

AN elderly man died in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district after being allegedly assaulted by a TMC councillor for protesting illegal construction, his family alleged in a police complaint on Sunday.

The incident, which took place in the Barrackpore area of the district, has sent shock waves across the poll-bound state. Police arrested Rabindra Nath Bhattacharya, the TMC councillor of the North Barrackpore Municipality from Ward No. 23, after interrogating him based on a complaint filed by the kin of the deceased against him at the Barrackpore police station.

Tulsi Adhikari (80), the deceased, had reportedly been protesting the illegal construction in front of his house. He had also filed a complaint in this regard.

Paromita Adhikari, daughter-in-law of the deceased, has alleged that the councillor and his associates had barged into their house earlier on Sunday and thrashed the octogenarian and her husband brutally. The councillor allegedly abused the old man and kicked him in the abdomen. He fell on the ground and died on the way to the Chandra Bose Hospital in Barrackpore Cantonment, she claimed.

Before the arrest, the TMC leader had dismissed the allegations as "baseless and politically motivated." "I did not assault anyone. I am being defamed for political reasons. Any death is unfortunate, but I did not hit him. Rather, they attacked me. The son of the deceased had grabbed my neck and pushed me. The CCTV footage will confirm that," he claimed. The body has been sent for a post-mortem examination.

'Kicked in the abdomen'

Paromita Adhikari, daughter-in-law of the deceased, has alleged that the councillor and his associates had barged into their house earlier on Sunday and thrashed the octogenarian and her husband brutally. The councillor allegedly abused the old man and kicked him in the abdomen. He fell on the ground and died on the way to the hospital, she claimed

Himanta sharpens attack on Gogoi over 2013 visit to Pak

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

Row as BJP video shows CM flaunting a gun

The BJP on Sunday stirred a hornet's nest by posting a video on social media showing Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma allegedly firing a shot at Muslims in framed photos on a wall captioned 'No mercy'. One of the photos also featured a man resembling Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi. The party has since taken down the video even as the outrage continues.

AHEAD of Assam elections expected in March or April, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday raised a series of questions linked to Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi and his British wife Elizabeth Colburn Gogoi's Pakistan visit in 2013 when he was not an MP.

Addressing a marathon press conference, Sarma threw down the gauntlet to Gogoi, who is also the Assam Congress president and deputy leader of the party in Parliament, asking him to share the details of his ten-day stay in Pakistan, and to make public a letter, allegedly issued by Pakistan's Interior Ministry modifying his itinerary on the visa.

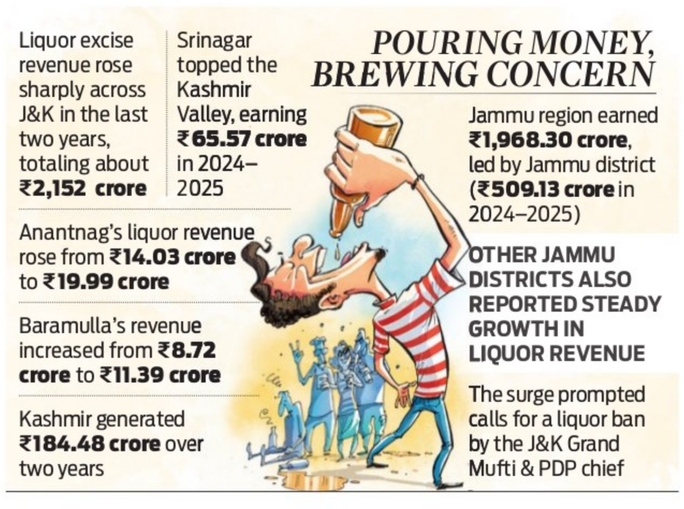
"He visited Pakistan for ten days from December 14 in 2013. Pakistan is not a touristic country. When he was asked by Assamese media about it, he had stated that he wanted to meet his wife, who briefly worked at a climate organisation in the neighbouring country, but she was then working in India. He visited Pakistan via the Attari border. His father (late Tarun Gogoi) was then the Assam CM but the Assam Police special branch was not informed about the visit," Sarma said. He said the visa was issued for visit to Lahore but on December 16, a day after he arrived, Pakistan's Interior Ministry issued a letter, allowing him to visit Islamabad and Karachi.

The Assam SIT learnt about the modification in his travel itinerary by confiscating his passport without interrogating him, the CM said. He said after 10 days of digital silence, Gogoi had changed completely and months later when he became an MP, he raised various questions in Parliament relating to national security such as uranium reserves and tapping, LAC patrolling points, etc.

Gogoi responded by saying Sarma had embarrassed himself in front of the media. The journalists remained unconvinced, he said. "He (Sarma) should rather explain how his family managed to acquire 12,000 bighas or 4000 acres of prime property across Assam," Gogoi said in post on X.

Booze sale up in Kashmir, Mufti demands ban

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar


POURING MONEY, BREWING CONCERN
Liquor excise revenue rose sharply across J&K in the last two years, totaling about ₹2,152 crore
Srinagar topped the Kashmir Valley, earning ₹65.57 crore in 2024–2025
Anantnag's liquor revenue rose from ₹14.03 crore to ₹19.99 crore
Baramulla's revenue increased from ₹8.72 crore to ₹11.39 crore
Kashmir generated ₹184.48 crore over two years
Jammu region earned ₹1,968.30 crore, led by Jammu district (₹509.13 crore in 2024–2025)
OTHER JAMMU DISTRICTS ALSO REPORTED STEADY GROWTH IN LIQUOR REVENUE
The surge prompted calls for a liquor ban by the J&K Grand Mufti & PDP chief

THE consumption of liquor in Muslim-majority Kashmir has increased with Srinagar emerging as the highest excise revenue generating district in the Valley, prompting J&K Grand Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam and PDP chief and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti to mull a complete ban on sale and purchase of alcohol.

Responding to a question by MLA Arjun Sinha Raju, the government informed the Assembly that excise revenues have risen significantly in both Kashmir and Jammu provinces during the last two years.

The figures reveal that Srinagar recorded excise revenue of ₹5,489.67 lakh in 2023–24, which climbed to ₹6,557.66 lakh in 2024–25, making it the top liquor revenue-generating district in the Valley. Other districts in the Valley have also seen an increase in liquor revenue generation. Anantnag in south Kashmir generated ₹1,403.50 lakh in 2023–24 and ₹1,999.50 lakh in 2024–25. North Kashmir's Baramulla district saw revenues increase from ₹872.23 lakh in 2023–24 to ₹1,139.84 lakh in 2024-25, Kupwara's collections rose from ₹415.66 lakh in 2023-24 to ₹442.96 lakh in 2024-25. Central Kashmir's Ganderbal district recorded an increase from ₹223.45 lakh in 2023–24 to ₹319.69 lakh in 2024–25.

According to the data, Kashmir generated an excise revenue of ₹18,448.50 lakh in the last two years despite being a predominantly Muslim region, where liquor consumption remains socially and religiously sensitive. The 10 districts of the Jammu region together generated ₹1,96,830.06 lakh in liquor revenue during the same period. Overall, J&K UT earned about ₹2,152 crore in excise revenue from existing liquor shops in the last two years.

Jammu district topped the chart in the Jammu province, generating ₹48,350.15 lakh in 2023–24, which increased to ₹50,913.93 lakh in 2024–25. Other districts also reported consistent growth – Udhampur (₹11,322 lakh to ₹12,061.50 lakh), Kathua (₹10,653 lakh to ₹11,272 lakh), Samba (₹9,138.06 lakh to ₹9,740.15lakh), Rajouri (₹4,806.19 lakh to ₹5,336.96 lakh), Reasi (₹3,371 lakh to ₹3,450.50 lakh), Doda (₹2,353.61 lakh to ₹2,448.17 lakh), Kishtwar (₹1,681.90 lakh to ₹1,887.59 lakh), Ramban (₹2,299.95 lakh to ₹2,476.70 lakh) and Poonch (₹1,497.78 lakh to ₹1,768.92 lakh).

Reacting to the surge in liquor use, J&K Grand Mufti Mufti Nasir-ul-Islam urged the government to impose a complete ban on liquor.

MP police take 45 years to nab man accused of stealing wheat worth ₹100

ANURAAG SINGH @ Bhopal

LONG RUN ENDS

1. Sheikh was 20 years old when he committed the theft in Khargone in 1980
2. He was nabbed from Dhar, produced in court, which sent him to judicial custody

AN elderly man in Madhya Pradesh, Salim Sheikh, has learnt the hard way that people seldom escape the long arm of the law. Over 45 years after he and five other youths allegedly stole wheat worth ₹100 from an agricultural field in southwestern Madhya Pradesh's Khargone district, police nabbed him on Saturday.

According to a senior police officer in Khargone district, Sheikh was 20 years old when he committed the theft in the Balasamud Kakad village in 1980. Now 65, Sheikh reportedly let his hair down, thinking the law would not catch up with him. So he was in for a shock when the Khargone district police from the Bagh area of the adjoining Dhar district caught him. He was subsequently produced in a local court, which denied him bail and sent him to judicial custody. Sheikh and another accused in the case, Salim Mohammad, remained on the run for years and were declared absconders by the court later, and an arrest warrant was issued.

It was an intelligence input about Mohammad that eventually led the cops of the Balakwada police station area to Sheikh. The cops were told that they would find Mohammad in Dewas district. However, upon conducting a raid there in connection with the case, the cops learnt that he had already passed away. It was Mohammad's kin that told the police that Sheikh was still alive and lived in the Bagh area of Dhar district, which is around 90-100 km from the agricultural field in Khargone district where the wheat theft was committed.

The police jumped into action and managed to nab Sheikh, who has been running a grocery shop with his son, from Dhar district.

Local media reports in Khargone suggest that Sheikh had kept a low profile since shifting to Dhar district. He was confident that the police had forgotten about the case registered in 1980 and had either stopped searching for him or shut the case. Little did he know that the police would come looking for him even after all these decades. The story of his arrest has sparked much buzz and proven the notion that the law eventually catches up with criminals.

4
injured after man drives car into pedestrians at grocery store in California mountain town

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	19	SNY	Los Angeles	20	12	SNY
Colombo	29	23	TDS	Melbourne	17	5	LC
Dhaka	27	16	TDS	Moscow	4	2	SNY
Dubai	26	22	SNY	New York	2	-3	SNY
Houston	30	23	TDS	Singapore	27	25	TDS
Istanbul	33	21	SNY	Toronto	-6	-8	SNY
London	12	8	SNY	Washington	3	-2	SNY

Exit polls give Takaichi big win in Japan vote

LDP projected to secure two-thirds majority, weakening already fragmented opposition and aiding military policy shifts

TOKYO

JAPANESE Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's governing party is almost certain to win a single-party majority in a key parliamentary election Sunday, NHK public television and other major networks say, citing their exit polls.

NHK says Takaichi's governing coalition led by her Liberal Democratic Party could also win more than two-thirds of the 465-seat lower house, the more powerful of the country's two-chamber parliament. That's a level that would allow the governing bloc to dominate house committee chairs to steer policy and budget bills.

Japan's Prime Minister and President of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Sanae Takaichi | AFP

NHK, citing results of early vote counts, said the LDP alone secured 244 seats, surpassing a majority at 233. The huge jump from the pre-election share may allow Takaichi to make progress on a right-wing agenda that aims to boost Japan's economy and military capabilities as tensions grow with China and she tries to nurture ties with the United States.

Takaichi is hugely popular, but the governing LDP, which has ruled Japan for most of the last seven decades, has struggled with funding and religious scandals in recent years. She called Sunday's early election only after three months in office, hoping to turn that around while her popularity is high.

The ultraconservative Takaichi, who took office as Japan's first female leader in October, pledged to "work, work, work," and her style, which is seen as both playful and tough, has resonated with younger fans.

The opposition, despite the formation of a new centrist alliance and a rising far-right, is seen as too splintered to be a real challenger.

The new opposition alliance of LDP's former coalition partner, Buddhist-backed dovish Komeito, and the liberal-leaning Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, is projected to sink to half of their combined pre-election share of 167 seats.

Takaichi was betting with this election that her LDP party, together with its new partner, the Japan Innovation Party, would secure a majority.

Takaichi wants to push forward a significant shift to the right in Japan's security, immigration and other policies. The LDP's right-wing partner, JIP leader Hirofumi Yoshimura, said his party will serve as an "accelerator" for this push.

Japan has recently seen far-right populists gain ground, such as the anti-globalist and surging nationalist party Sanseito. Exit polls projected a big gain for Sanseito.

Takaichi has pledged to revise security and defense policies by December to bolster Japan's offensive military capabilities, lifting a ban on weapons exports and moving further away from the country's postwar pacifist principles. *AP*

RAFAH BORDER REOPENS FOR LIMITED PALESTINIAN MEDICAL EVACUATIONS

CAIRO

A limited number of Palestinians traveled between Gaza and Egypt on Sunday as the Rafah crossing reopened after a two-day closure, Egyptian state media reported. The vital border point opened last week for the first time since mid-2024, one of the main requirements for the US-backed ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. The crossing was closed Friday and Saturday because of confusion around operations.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said 17 medical evacuees and 27 companions had begun the crossing into Egypt. The same number was expected to head into Gaza. Israel didn't immediately confirm it. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to meet with US President Donald Trump in Washington on Wednesday, though the major subject of discussion will be Iran, his office said. Over the first four days of the crossing's opening, just 36 Palestinians requiring medical care were allowed to leave for Egypt, plus 62 companions, according to UN data. Rafah's reopening came after Israel retrieved the remains of the last hostage in Gaza and US officials visited Israel to apply pressure. *AP*

Palestinians carry the belongings of relatives arriving in Gaza from Egypt following the long-awaited reopening of the Rafah border crossing in southern Gaza Strip | AP

Trump-Musk fallout: Pak delays licence for Starlink

ISLAMABAD

THE licence to Starlink to enter Pakistan's satellite internet market is delayed over data security concerns, the ongoing Musk-Trump fallout and competition from Chinese firms, local media reported on Sunday. Starlink, owned by tech billionaire Elon Musk, is among several companies seeking approval to operate in Pakistan, but officials say unresolved security and geopolitical considerations have slowed the approval process.

The government has come to know that Starlink could transmit certain data bypassing Pakistan's monitoring, regulatory and safety checks, reported the *Express Tribune*, citing sources. "We cannot allow a license to Starlink without ensuring a safety check to ensure the safety of the data of consumers in Pakistan," a senior government official said.

According to the officials, the row between US President Donald Trump and Elon Musk is another reason the Pakistani establishment is not ready to grant security clearance, fearing it could provoke displeasure from Trump. The US president and Musk had enjoyed good rapport in the past but they later drifted apart. *PTI*

EXPRESS READ

Nigerian president to visit UK next month

London: Britain's Buckingham Palace said on Sunday that Nigeria's president is set to make a state visit to the UK in March. Officials said President Bola Tinubu and first lady Oluremi Tinubu will travel to the UK on March 18 and 19 in the first state visit to Britain by a Nigerian president in four decades

French police nab 5 over magistrate kidnapping

Paris: French authorities have arrested five suspects after a magistrate and her mother were held captive last week for 30 hours in a cryptocurrency ransom plot, prosecutors said on Sunday.Four men and one woman were detained, three overnight and two on Sunday morning

UK: Diaspora-focussed channel loses licences

London: The UK's media watchdog has revoked the broadcast licences of the Indian diaspora-focused MATV over breach of regulatory conditions. A notice was issued after a probe dating back to 2024 concluded the licences were "wrongfully held" by Middlesex Broadcasting Corporation Limited (MBCL).

Iran will not yield on enrichment despite nuclear talks with US

DUBAI

IRAN's top diplomat insisted on Sunday that Tehran's strength came from its ability to "say no to the great powers," striking a maximalist position just after negotiations with the United States over its nuclear programme and in the wake of nationwide protests.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, speaking to diplomats at a summit in Tehran, signaled that Iran would stick to its position that it must be able to enrich uranium— a major point of contention with President Donald Trump, who bombed Iranian atomic sites in June during the 12-day Iran-Israel war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to travel to Washington this week, with Iran expected to be the major subject of discussion, his office said.

While Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian praised the talks Friday in Oman with the Americans as "a step forward," Araghchi's remarks show the challenge ahead. Already, the US moved the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, ships and warplanes to the Middle East to pressure Iran into an agreement and have the firepower necessary to strike the Islamic Republic should Trump choose to do so.

"I believe the secret of the Islamic Republic of Iran's power lies in its ability to stand against bullying, domination and pressures from others," Araghchi said.

I believe the secret of the Islamic Republic of Iran's power lies in its ability to stand against bullying, domination and pressures from others

Abbas Araghchi, Foreign Minister

"They fear our atomic bomb, while we are not pursuing an atomic bomb. Our atomic bomb is the power to say no to the great powers. The secret of the Islamic Republic's power is in the power to say no to the powers." Araghchi's choice to explicitly use an "atomic bomb" as a rhetorical device likely wasn't accidental. While Iran has long maintained its nuclear program is peaceful, the West and the International Atomic Energy Agency say Tehran had an organised military program to seek the bomb up until 2003.

Iran had been enriching uranium up to 60% purity, a short, technical step to weapons-grade levels of 90%, the only non-weapons state to do so. Iranian officials in recent years had also been increasingly threatening that the Islamic Republic could seek the bomb, even while its diplomats have pointed to Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's preachings as a binding fatwa, or religious edict, that Iran wouldn't build one. Pezeshkian, who ordered Araghchi to pursue talks with the Americans after likely getting Khamenei's blessing, also wrote on X on Sunday about the talks. "The Iran-US talks, held through the follow-up efforts of friendly governments in the region, were a step forward," the president wrote. "Dialogue has always been our strategy for peaceful resolution. ... The Iranian nation has always responded to respect with respect, but it does not tolerate the language of force." *AP*

LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC 13 (2) OF "THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIALASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

The following persons whose names are mentioned in Col No.2, The details of properties mortgaged are shown in Col No.5. The borrower has defaulted in repaying the amounts due by them as shown in Col. No.4, in spite of repeated remainders, consequently these dues have been classified as NPA's as per RBI's guidelines. Notices were sent by Regd. Post to below mention date and that is returned / undelivered. Therefore, the respective borrowers are hereby called upon to repay the outstanding amounts due mentioned against their names in Col No.2 within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which LIC Housing Finance Ltd., would be constrained to initiate proceedings under sec.13 (4) of SARFAESI Act against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereunder against the respective loan A/cs to realize the amounts due to them.

The borrower attention is also invited as per Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of the secured assets will be available to them only till date of publication of Sale Notice.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower & Loan No	Demand Notice Date	Notice Amount (in Rupees)	Description of the Property
1.	MS. VINUTHA KANDADE MR. RAMASHESHAN KANDADE Loan A/c No. 410100008328	22/12/2025	Rs. 1912023.00	SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable residential House property bearing No.56, Khata No.154, Situated at Kempapur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently coming under the limits of BBMP and bearing Municipal Khata No.174/56/54, Ward No.7, Kempapura Village, measuring East to West: 60-0 Feet and North to South: 40-0 Feet totally measuring 2400 Sq. Feet and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Site No.57, South by: Remaining Portion of the Vendors Property. SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 300 Sq. feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property. SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Flat Bearing No.SF-2, on the Second Floor of the building known as "AAKRUTHI RESIDENCY" constructed in the Schedule "A" Property having a Super built up area of 1100 Sq. Feet, consisting of Two Bed Rooms, with One Covered Car Parking Slot bearing No. SF-2, in the Stilt Floor, of the building. The said Apartment is of RCC roof, vitrified Flooring with wooden doors and Aluminum Glazed windows, along with all the amenities, Common facilities, Common areas and rights provided therein.
2.	Mr. VIJAY BASAVARAJ Ms. SHINE VIDHYA Loan A/c No.4001010002778 4001010002779	13.01.2026	Rs. 1,22,12,172.65	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Northern Portion of Property Bearing Site No. 670, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike No. 226/670/1 earlier CMC Katha No. 226/225, Measuring East to West 40.9 Feet and North to South 19.5 Feet, in all measuring 794.625 Sq. Feet, along with residential building Consisting of Ground Floor, measuring 700 Sq. Feet, first floor, Measuring 700 Sq.,. Feet and Second floor Measuring 300 Sq. Feet., constructed with RCC Roofind, Vitrified flooring, Sal wood Doors and UPVC Windows, situated at Dr. Shivaram Karanth Nagar, Srirampura village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and Bounded on the:- East by: Site No. 669, West by: 30 Feet Road, North by: 30 Feet Road, South by: Remaining Portion of same Site No. 670.
3.	MS. ARCHANA CHOUDHURY DAS Loan A/c No. 411900006473 411900010010 411900011998	29/01/2026	Rs. 3639068.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Converted Sy. No. 50/1, an extent of 0-33 Guntas, Sy.No.50/3 an extent of 0-12 Guntas, Sy. No. 50/8 an extent of 0-17 Guntas, Sy. No. 50/9A an extent of 0-08 Guntas, Sy.No.50/9B an extent of 0-07 Gunats, Sy. No. 50/10 an extent of 0-30 Guntas, {initially converted for Hi-Tech Purposes Vide order No.ALN(E.K.H.W)SR 52/2010-11 dated 07/04/2011, later the same are changed for residential purposes vide change of Land use bearing Order No.BDA/TPM/CLU-365/11-12/2622/2012-13, dated 08/08/2012, issued by the Commissioner, Bangalore Development Authority}, totally measuring an extent of 2 Acre 27 Guntas, BBMP Katha No.669 and Sy. No. 50/2 an extent of 0-13 Guntas, {converted for Non-agricultural residential purpose vide Order No.ALN(E.K.HW)SR 53/2012-13, dated 17/08/2012, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore} BBMP Katha No.678 and both the properties are adjoining to one and another totally measuring 3 (Three) Acre or 1,30,680 Sq. Feet. Present Amalgamated BBMP Katha No.669, situated at Whitefield Village, K. R. Puram Hobli, earlier Bangalore South Taluk, presently Bangalore East taluk, earlier within the jurisdiction of CMC Mahadevapura, presently under the administrative Jurisdiction of BBMP, with all rights appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or above the surface and bounded on: East by: Property bearing Sy.No.50/16 & 50/11, West by: Property bearing Sy. No. 50/07 & Nellurahalli Boundary, North by: Property belongs to Subbegowda, South by: Road. SCHEDULE "B" : 462.48 Sq.Ft., undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. SCHEDULE "C" Flat bearing No.102, in the First Floor, of D Block in Segment – II of the building known as "BM GLORIETTA", totally measuring 1458 Sq. Feet super built up area, containing the Three Bed Rooms, together with RCC Roofing, Vitrified flooring, along with One Covered Car Parking Space at Basement, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, Lift and other amenities, etc., in the multistoried residential apartment building known as "BM GLORIETTA" CONSTRUCTED OVER Schedule "A" Property.
4.	MR. ABHISHEK M L Loan A/c No. 412100003043	01/01/2026	Rs. 9262808.00	SCHEDULE A PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing earlier Khatha Nos.668/1A, 669/1A, presently assigned New Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Khatha No.194/1, measuring East to West on the Northern side 54.6 feet and on the southern side 74 feet and North to South on the Eastern side 124 feet and Western side 44+92 feet in all admeasuring 8188 sq.ft situated at Kaggadasapura, K. R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the: East by: Road and measuring on that side 124 feet, West by: Private property and measuring on that side 44+92 feet, North by: Private property and measuring on that side 54.6 feet South by: Private property and measuring on that side 74 feet. SCHEDULE B PROPERTY : 395 sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in the Schedule A Property above SCHEDULE C PROPERTY : Flat bearing No.005, in Ground Floor measuring 1455 Sq.ft super built up area containing Three Bed Rooms, together with RCC Roofing Ceramic flooring, together with one covered car parking space including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies stair case etc. The multi storied residential complex known as ROCK REGENCY constructed on Schedule A property.
5.	MR. MANJUNATH B L Loan A.c No. 412100002552	01/01/2026	Rs. 6401424.00	SCHEDULE A PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Converted Land in Sy.No.51 Converted order No.ALN (NAY) SR,46/11-12, measuring an extent 8,356 Guntas or 9100 Sq.Ft, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, situated at Thindlu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, and bounded on: East by : Road, West by: Sy.No. 70/8 North by : Remaining part of Sy.No 51, South by: Property Of Krishnappa. SCHEDULE "B" : 342Sq ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" above. SCHEDULE "C" : All that Residential Apartment bearing Flat No .G-05, in the Ground Floor, having Super Built Up Area of 1166 Square Feet, consisting of 2 Bed Rooms with RCC Roofing Vitrified Ceramic Flooring including proportionate share in common area such as passage, lobbies, staircase contained in the residential apartment known as "ALCONS RUBY" constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, BBMP Katha No 3/51, situated at Thindlu Village, Yelahanka Hobli ,Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, with One Covered Car Parking Space.
6.	MR. DEEPAK JHA MS. SULAKSHNA JHA Loan A/c No.411900013228	06/01/2026	Rs. 4956534.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property BBMP Khata No.851/1, Ward No.13, formed Converted in Sy.No.16/2, measuring 1 Acre 10 Guntas, Duly Converted for Non-agricultural Residential Purpose Vide Official Memorandum Order No. ALN(E)(B): SR: 107/2007-08, dated 23.06.2009, issued by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, situated at Medahalli Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under the Jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike, Bangalore, and bounded on the: East by: Property Belongs to Krishnappa, West by: Property Belongs to Muniramaiah, North by: Property Belongs to Neelamma, South by: Private Property. SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY : 547 Square feet, undivided share, right, title and interest in the immovable Schedule 'A' Property.. SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY : (Description of the Residential Apartment Conveyed) : All that piece and parcel of the Residential Flat No. 108, on the Ground Floor, Super Built-up area 990 Sq.ft and 547 Sq.ft. undivided share, right, title, interest of land in Schedule 'A' Property along with One Covered Car Parking space in the basement on the Schedule 'A' Property names as 'RADIANT LAKEVIEW-II", Block-3, and constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property apartments, Apartments the RCC roofed building consisting of Two Bedrooms, Hall, Kitchen, One Utility and One Balcony, - Brick wall with Cement, Vitrified Flooring, Jungle Wood Doors, Steel Frame Windows including all rights, privileges, common area, common open space, Common facilities and amenities, including Lift, Generator, appurtenances and easementary rights of the residential constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property known as in RADIANT LAKEVIEW-II", Block – 3, Apartments, and bounded on the: East by: Passage & Flat No.107, West by: Set-back, North by: Flat No.106, South by: Flat No.109.
7.	MR. RAMASWAMY H MR. R VIGNESH (GUARANTOR) Loan A/c No. 411900014816	06/01/2026	Rs. 5768970.00	SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of Southern portion of Property bearing converted Survey No.88, present BBMP 59/88/1, No. D.A. 516/2013-14, earlier portion of BBMP Khata No, 59/88, No.DA/271/2013-14, situated at Chokkanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, converted from agricultural purpose to residential purpose vide ALN(NAY)SR No.272 and 273/2007-18, from the Spl. Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, Bangalore District ('A' Schedule property), measuring Easter Side: 165 feet, Western Side: 170 feet, Northern Side: 111.2 Feet, Southern Side: 111.8 feet (165+170) feet and (110+111.2)/2 feet, totally 18592.5 square feet, with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded as follows: East by: Remaining Property in the same survey Number belongs Mr.S Raja & Others. West by: Remaining Property in the same survey Number belongs Mr.S Raja & Others.North by: Road, South by: Government Rock. SCHEDULE 'B" : 393 sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" Property.
8.	MR. HARI VENKATESH MS. SUSHMA SUGUMAR Loan A/c No. 410400008697	07/01/2026	Rs. 7626197.00	COMPOSITE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Site bearing No.106/B, 106/C, 106/D, 106/E and 107 carved out of property bearing Sy.No.27/2, duly converted by the Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide order No.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)134/1992-93, DATED 22.9.1992, V.P.Katha No.109, Assessment No.27/2, situated at Vasanthapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 90 Ft. and North to South : 37.78 Ft. in all measuring 3400 Sq. ft., and bounded on the: East by: Property belongs to the vendor and private property, West by: Property belongs to the vendor and private property, North by: Private Property, South by: 20 feet Road, SCHEDULE B PROPERTY (sold to the purchasers under this sale deed) : All that piece and parcel of the Eastern portion of Residential House bearing No. 106/B, carved out of in Sy.No.27/2, duly converted by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore vide order Nop.B.DIS.ALN.SR(S)134/1992-93, DATED 22.9.1992, V.P.Katha No.109, Assessment No.27/2, situated at Vasanthapura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West on Northern side 23 ft. on the southern side 30 ft. and North to South: Eastern side 12 ft, Western side 30 ft., totally measuring 556.5 Sq. ft., out of 3400 sq. ft., consisting of Ground Floor measuring 400 sq. ft., First Floor 350 sq. ft., RCC Roofed building, Vitrified flooring, jungle wood doors and windows and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Remaining portion of same property bearing Site No.106/B, North by: Property bearing Site No.104, 105 and 106, South by: 20 Feet Road.
9.	MR. SURESH KUMAR P Loan A/ No. 410100010014	17/01/2026	Rs. 487215.00	SCHEDULE PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing Vacant Site No.90, Portion of V.P.Khata No.551/48/1, PID No.150200203500220359, formed out of Residential converted Old Sy.No.48/1, New Sy No.48/4, Layout called "GARDEN CITY",(converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose vide conversion order No. ALN: (NAY) SR:156/2010-11, dated 05/09/2011, issued by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore), situated at Mediagrahara Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Vidyaranya Post, Bangalore North Tq, Bangalore – 560097, measuring East to West: 41.5 feet and North to South: 19.5 feet, in all total measuring 809.25 sq.ft., and bounded on: East by: Road, West by: Private Property, North by: Site No.91, South by: Site No.80(First Phase of Garden City).
10.	MR. M METHUN SINGH MR. MANJUNATHA A (GUARANTOR) Loan A/c No. 410600009149	17/01/2026	Rs. 3807334.00	SCHEDULE :All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.8, New Corporation No.11, situated in 1st Cross, Kasturinagar Layout, Magadi Road, Bangalore – 560023 (formerly Site No.8 in converted No. 3 & 4 of Halebridge Muddenahalli, Kasba Hobli, East of Bangalore Mysore Division Road, Corporation Division No.4, Bangalore City) and measuring East to West: 30 feet and North to South: 40 feet consisting of Ground 980 sq. Feet and First floor 500 Sq. feet along with all common amenities and bounded on: East by: Property bearing No.8A, West by: Private Property, North by: Private Property, South by: Road.

Place : Bengaluru
Date: 09.02.2026

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

$3.5 BN — Valuation of Sabre Infrastructure after private markets firm TPG agreed to buy a majority stake from Blackstone, which will maintain a significant minority stake in Texas-based firm

What changed in SGB taxation after Budget

According to new amendments, original bondholders can claim capital gains exemption on redemption of SGBs

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

IN a move aimed at tightening the intended scope of tax benefits on Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs), the government has amended the Income Tax Act to withdraw the capital gains tax exemption for investors who purchase SGBs from the secondary market.

Announcing the change in the Budget, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the exemption from capital gains tax on redemption of SGBs will now be available only to individuals who subscribe to the bonds at the time of original issue and hold them continuously until maturity.

The Budget amends Section 70(1)(x) of the Income Tax Act, which currently provides capital gains tax exemption on redemption of SGBs issued by the RBI under the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme, 2015. According to the government, this led to an unintended situation where investors buying SGBs from the stock exchanges were also claiming the exemption upon redemption — a benefit that was originally meant only for primary subscribers.

The amendment will come into effect from April 1, and apply from assessment year 2026-27 onwards.

Why clarifications needed

CBDT Chairman Ravi Agarwal termed the move a clarification rather than a policy shift. "This is a clarification, not a change. The exemption from capital gains tax was always intended only for investors who subscribed to SGBs at issuance and held them till maturity. However, analytics

showed that some investors who bought SGBs in the secondary market were also claiming this exemption, which was never the intention. This applies across all tranches of SGBs," he said.

What changes for investors

Until now, any investor holding SGBs till maturity could claim capital gains tax exemption on redemption, irrespective of whether they had subscribed to the original issue or bought the bonds later from the secondary market.

Post amendment, only original subscribers who hold the bonds for the full eight-year tenure will be eligible for the exemption.

All others — including secondary market buyers — will be taxed under normal capital gains provisions applicable to listed securities. Long-term capital gains (held for more than 12 months) will be taxed at 12.5%, while short-term capital gains is taxed as per income tax slab.

As per RBI rules, interest earned on SGBs continues to be taxable as per the Income Tax Act. No TDS is applicable, but the onus of tax compliance remains with the bondholder. Indexation benefits will continue to apply to long-term capital gains arising from transfer of bonds.

Nehal Mota, Co-Founder and CEO of Finnovate, said the change will materially alter investor behaviour around SGBs. "With the current change, only original subscribers holding up to eight years till maturity will get capital exemption. This will likely deter short-term trading of SGBs, as there will be a decline in speculative activity due to the absence of a tax incentive to trade or hold SGBs bought from the secondary market." She expects trading volumes and price volatility in SGBs to reduce as speculative interest wanes.

IN CONVERSATION

NIKHIL MALHOTRA
CIO & Head of AI and Emerging Technologies at Tech Mahindra

'Developing Project Indus AI model for educational purposes'

AS India pushes to expand artificial intelligence into public services, Tech Mahindra says it is developing the Project Indus AI model to serve as an educational tool, even in regional dialects, **Nikhil Malhotra**, Chief Innovation Officer & Head of AI and Emerging Technologies at Tech Mahindra, told **Padmini Dhruvaraj**. **Excerpts:**

How has Project Indus evolved to support education?
Project Indus, when it started, was not educational. It was a very simple pre-trained transformer system that was released two or three years back. Now, obviously, we have changed Project Indus to become educational. For example, the model should be able to help any student between Class 6 to Class 12 physics and also in their own dialect of their choice. It is not just Hindi; it also has dialects like Bhojpuri, Dogri, Maithili, etc.

Why did you focus so strongly on dialects rather than just language translation?
We did not just look at language. We also looked at the dialect part of it because we think dialects are more important, along with the language. Hindi is spoken in at least 42 different ways. Even if you say Marwari, there are variants like Harauti, Panchparganiya, and Khadi-Koli. A simple sentence like "last week I saw a film" changes completely across dialects. If the token is not captured correctly, the sentence loses its connotational meaning. Though physics has scientific knowledge, physics in Bhojpuri, physics in Hindi, and physics in Math can be very differently explained.

How does this work fit into the larger IndiaAI Mission?
IndiaAI Mission has about 12 companies. Different companies are doing different things. Some of them are doing voice-to-voice. Some of them are doing it for minerals. Some of them are doing it for health. We chose education as a parameter. We said we will not boil the ocean. We will be very specific. First, science for India, and within science, only physics.

At the IndiaAI Summit in February, you will see a meta-human tutor. We want to put it on a PC so that you have a specific tutor in your own language available to you. So that English does not become the criteria for creativity or knowing science

Was Tech Mahindra working on AI even before the IndiaAI Mission?
Yes. We were one of the first IT services companies, probably the only IT services company, to have built a large language model from the ground up. That was Project Indus. It is absolutely free even today. You can use it on Hugging Face. It is amongst the 18 most downloaded models.

How do you measure whether this educational AI is actually working?
Borrowed benchmarks don't work. This is a fallacy in the AI world. We build our own benchmarks. When a kid asks a question, what should the response be? Are you explaining step by step? Are you giving contextual reasoning? We look at around 27 to 30 parameters, which becomes about 50 to 60 evaluation parameters.

We use a judge LLM to evaluate our LLM. Only when we reach about 70-80% or 80-85% do we clear the model. When we release this, we will also release the educational benchmark.

From a business standpoint, how does this AI research translate into revenue?
I wear two hats, commerce and purpose. It's not just profit. But sometimes when purpose happens, profit actually follows. Post Indus, we were responsible for Indonesia's sovereign LLM, Sahabat. Today, we are creating domain-specific LLMs for telecom, manufacturing, healthcare, and other industries across the world. This research funnels into revenue.

Will Project Indus remain open, and what's next for it?
Anybody can use that model once we build it as an educational element. At the IndiaAI Summit in February, you will see a meta-human tutor. We want to put it on a PC so that you have a specific tutor in your own language available to you.

MONEY-WISE

HOW A 33-YEAR-OLD SHOULD INVEST?

FINANCIAL ADVICE

PV SUBRAMANYAM
writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'

FIRST, let's outline your financial goals based on your query: funding education for two children (ages 8 and 4 with higher education needs in 18 years) and building a retirement corpus by age 60 (27 years away).

In the Indian context, inflation for education is typically 8-10% annually, while general inflation hovers around 6%. You'll need to factor in your current income, expenses, risk tolerance, and any existing savings

- **Estimate Your NeedsTo plan effectively, calculate rough targets using current averages and inflation-adjusted projections:** Children's Education: Higher education in India can cost ₹15-30 lakh per child today for a good private institution, plus living expenses. Factoring 8% inflation over 15 years, you might need ₹50-80 lakhs per child (or ₹1-1.6 crore total for two). If studying abroad, double that.
- **Retirement:** Assume you'll need 25-30 times your annual expenses at retirement to sustain 20-30 years post-60. If your current monthly expenses are ₹50,000 (post-inflation at 6%), you'd need ₹1.5-2 crore today, but adjusted for 27 years, aim for ₹4-6 crore corpus assuming 7-8% post-retirement returns.
- **Start with a financial audit:** Track expenses, build an emergency fund, get adequate term life insurance, and health coverage (family floater of ₹10-20 lakh).

Asset Allocation Strategy At 33, you have time on your side, so adopt a growth-oriented approach with moderate risk. A suggested allocation: Asset Class Hedge against inflation and market volatility.

Rebalance annually and reduce equity exposure as goals approach (eg, shift to debt 3-5 years before education funding).

Investment Options for Each Goal Focus on tax-efficient, diversified instruments. Use Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) to benefit from rupee-cost averaging and compounding. Look at Hybrid and Multi-Asset plans which are more tax efficient than a pure debt plan.

- **Child-Specific Plans:** Accumulating money in children's name has its tax advantages, do that.
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY):** If either child is a girl under 10, invest up to ₹1.5 lakh annually for tax-free returns (7.6% currently) locked until age 21.
- **Strategy:** Allocate 40-50% of your monthly investments here. For a ₹1 crore target in 15 years at 12% returns, SIP ₹15,000-20,000 per child.
- **Tip:** Use goal-based apps to track; they recommend aggressive hybrid funds for medium-term education savings.
- **For Retirement (Long-Term:** 27 Years)Primary Vehicles: National Pension System (NPS): Tier-I account for tax benefits under 80CCD(1B) (extra ₹50,000 deduction). Allocate 50-75% to equity for growth. It's low-cost and annuity-based for post-retirement income. Aim for 10-12% returns.

Voluntary PF, PPF, NPS – all will be a part of your retirement plan.

Equity Mutual Funds: SIP in flexi-cap or large-cap funds for diversification.

MONEY MATTERS

HOW MONEY IS AFFECTED BY MAJOR EVENTS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THERE are headwinds and tailwinds to your money. The first week of February brought a combination of those with policy shifts and market volatility. It was the Union Budget 2026, presented on 1 February, that maintained a status quo on policy. For those investors in the financial markets expecting reforms or tax benefits, it brought disappointment. That created a headwind to your investment in the stock market. However, by promising to keep a tight control over finances and maintain a prudent fiscal path, your investment in the fixed-income market, such as bonds, did not react much.

Then, the announcement of the US-India trade deal suddenly gave sagging Indian equities a tailwind. After months of negotiations, the US and India agreed to announce a deal that is likely to be signed over the next few weeks. US trade sanctions took the wind out of foreign direct investment. Businesses held back from raising capital and waited for the two countries to agree to a trade deal. Foreign portfolio investors found other stock markets attractive and shunned India or pulled their money out. That took a toll on the Indian rupee. The rupee's value against the US dollar continued to fall until the deal was announced. The signing of the deal with the US, and earlier with the European Union, paves the way for multinational companies to implement their China +1 strategy with India. The deal with the two major economic blocs also opens high-consumption markets for Indian companies to export to. With an increased supply of foreign currency from direct and portfolio investment, the rupee should bounce back.

Weak government finances and a weak currency put pressure on the money supply, stoking inflation. However, the government has managed to keep inflation under control through fiscal consolidation and trade deals.

Despite positive signs for inflation, the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee (MPC) left key borrowing rates unchanged last week. The MPC clearly sees inflation rising in the next few quarters. For businesses to thrive, borrowing rates have to remain low. That is important for you too if you wish to borrow to buy a new home or for any business need. If interest rates are high, consumption in urban and rural India slows. While there is a significant surge in consumption in rural India, corroborated by businesses in earnings calls and conferences.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The latest urban consumption survey published by the Reserve Bank of India shows a decline in consumer confidence. That is not such good news, as urban consumption plays a significant role in India's economic growth. Urban consumers are crucial in that context. If they are not confident about their future income, they would not spend. Companies selling goods and services to them would not be too pleased to read that.

What it means

The developments of the past few days could have a long-term impact on your personal finances. According to most experts, India's economic growth is set to get a boost from the new trade deals. Meanwhile, investors were spooked by the rapid rollout of Agentic AI tools, such as Claude's new workplace capabilities. The selloff in IT services company shares is questioning the growth model of Indian IT companies. There is already pressure on urban consumption. The uncertainty in the IT services sector could create stress on skilled employment in urban areas. Your fixed-income investments, such as fixed deposits and bonds, are unlikely to see significant changes as inflation remains low. Your equity investments, directly or through mutual funds, will continue to grow at a steady pace as long as India's economic growth continues to maintain a growth around 7% or above. You may want to continue to focus on seeking professional advice and ensuring appropriate asset allocation.

UPI allocation need-based: DFS Secy

PUSHPITA DEY/DIPAK MONDAL
@ New Delhi

The ₹2,000-crore provision for UPI is made in line with existing policy. If there is any shortfall, it can always be addressed at the revised estimates stage, as has been done in the past

M Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS)

THE Union government's allocation of ₹2,000 crore as subsidy support for UPI payments is aligned with existing policy, and any future shortfall will be addressed as required, said M Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), in an exclusive interaction with *TNIE*.

He indicated that the government remains open to recalibrating the subsidy or even revisiting the question of making certain UPI transactions chargeable, depending on evolving policy needs.

"The ₹2,000-crore provision for UPI is made in line with existing policy and projected requirements. If there is any shortfall, it can always be addressed at the revised estimates stage, as has been done in the past — there have been significant variations between Budget Estimates and Revised Estimates in earlier years as well," said Nagaraju.

The ₹2,000-crore provision for 2026-27 is lower than the current financial year's payout of ₹2,196 crore, which itself was sharply raised from a Budget Estimate of ₹476 crore.

On the possibility of levying charges on UPI transactions, Nagaraju said several ideas are under discussion and the eventual decision will depend on the policy framework that emerges. One proposal under consideration is to levy charges on UPI transactions above a certain threshold, while keeping nearly 90% of transactions free.

Negotiated push

Nagaraju said adequate safeguards and systems are in place for UPI's operations both in India and overseas, as the platform continues to gain international traction.

However, expansion outside India depends on formal, bilateral arrangements and approvals from respective central banks. With India looking to expand UPI to seven to eight more countries, he emphasised that such partnerships cannot be entered into unilaterally.

"Just as India is selective about allowing foreign payment systems to operate domestically, other countries also evaluate UPI based on their own regulatory and strategic considerations. International adoption is therefore a negotiated process, not an automatic one. India's approach has been to offer UPI primarily to facilitate seamless digital payments for Indian citizens travelling abroad, rather than to derive direct commercial gains," Nagaraju said.

Accountant definition feature in draft I-T rules; CBDT seeks public inputs

DIPAK MONDAL @ New Delhi

RATIONALISATION of long-standing perquisite thresholds and a sharper definition of who qualifies as an 'Accountant' for certification purposes are among the key changes reflected in the draft Income-Tax Rules and Forms released by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) under the Income-Tax Act, 2025.

The draft Rules indicate revisions in archaic limits such as tax-free at-work meal value and gifts received from employers, bringing them closer to present-day economic realities.

Another significant change is in the definition of 'Accountant' for various certifications under the new law. The revised definition proposes that only individual professionals with

at least 10 years of experience and annual receipts exceeding ₹50 lakh in the preceding year would qualify. In the case of partners in firms engaged in accountancy or valuation services, the firm's annual receipts in the preceding year must exceed ₹3 crore. These changes are part of the proposed Income-Tax Rules and related Forms framed under the Income-Tax Act, 2025, coming into force from April 1.

As part of a wider consultative exercise before final notification, the draft Rules and Forms have been uploaded on the official Income Tax Department website. The department has also launched a dedicated utility on the e-filing portal to collect structured feedback from taxpayers, professionals and other stakeholders.

The new Act received Presidential assent in August 2025 and will replace the existing framework from the next financial year.

According to the Union Finance Ministry, the proposed Rules and Forms have been prepared after broad-based consultations to ensure alignment with the provisions of the new law.

FORZA ITALIA: SET FOR NEW INNINGS

The European nation is taking its first steps towards creating a future for cricket back home

Italy's Harry Manenti (R) attends a training session on Sunday | AFP

GOMESH S @ Kolkata

"IT is a new era for cricket in Italy," says Maria Lorena Haz Paz, president of the Italian Cricket Federation (Federazione Cricket Italiana - FCRI). These guys are writing the first lines for our new book," she tells this daily shortly after watching the Italian captain and head coach address the media on the eve of their World Cup debut against Scotland.

If there ever was a doubt about the magnitude of the occasion, all one had to do was look at the back seats of the press conference room at Eden Gardens on a humid Sunday afternoon. Maria was sitting along with FCRI's former president Simone Gambino, CEO Luca Bruno Malaspina and other officials. This kind of media attention is not new for Maria, who is the first woman president of FCRI. The cricket team, however, does not get significant coverage back home. Which is why the FCRI has also flown in three journalists from major publications — Corriere Della Sera, La Gazzetta dello Sport & la Repubblica — to ensure that the cricket team that is set to make history gets their due coverage.

After all, the sport is still in its nascent stages in Italy, a European country with a rich history in football and Olympic sports. Although, when AC Milan was founded in the late 1800s, it had a very prominent place for cricket but football gained prominent in the years that followed.

In the modern context, former Italian forward, Christian Vieiri, who grew up in Australia, loved cricket so much he considered himself to be a cricketer than a footballer. These days, cricket has no real identity. There is no cricket turf in the country as things stand. A vast number of grounds are privately owned, and clubs are coming up, but the sport is just getting started in Italy. This World Cup, in India and Sri Lanka, is the first stage of their global stage. The players and the federation are very much aware of it.

Having qualified for the World Cup, they had a camp in Dubai before the warm-up matches in Chennai. But now, there are only hours away from the dream becoming a reality. The dream they pursued was not for money — there is not much at the moment — but for the chance to showcase their skills at the biggest stage and pay homage to their Italian roots. This team, much like several associate nations, have players from different parts of the world. They have Italian-Australians, South African-born Italians, and players from India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka who moved there at a young age and grew up in Italy.

Maria says they have one thing in common — Italianness. "Ultimately, yes, we all come from different cultures, all a mix of races, of different cultures. But we all have Italy or Italianness in common. Some have Italian roots abroad, others came as children or were born in Italy. Hence, this cohesion. I think our strong point is that we grew up as Italians in a great country, and those who, from afar, with roots from their grandmothers and parents, retain their Italian identity. By combining these two factors, I think this is our strong point: the group is cohesive and there is unity among them, sharing even free time, not just on the pitch, and this is the most beautiful part," Maria explains. While the infrastructure is only growing, the inclusion of cricket in the Olympics has been a boost. The Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) has apparently contacted the cricket association regarding getting a dedicated ground with a dressing room and training facilities for the sport. It is still a work-in-progress, one that will take a few years before cricket becomes a full-time profession. However, the FCRI has its eyes on building its infrastructure and making cricket get to the top three sports in the country.

Which is why Italy's debut is not just about the novelty of the sport but also about competing and winning. And more importantly, people back home know about it. "It's certainly no secret that we are the only nation in the world to have qualified without turf pitches. We are working to try to at least make the top three in Italy, so that our team and the new talents can have better preparation that will eventually take them to a higher level than we currently have," Maria explains. "Certainly, the current team still has the greatest responsibility, because with their work will bring forward new talent, and together with the excellent coaches we can bring to Italy or already have in Italy, we need to train at a higher level to continue our education. We certainly know that this is our very first and an opportunity that won't be repeated because it's the first time.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

SCOTLAND SEEK WIN

AFTER LOSS AGAINST WI, THEY FACE DEBUTANTS ITALY. A LOOK...

Keeping momentum an issue

For the better part of the contest against West Indies, Scotland were in control. However, they let it slip away with the ball in the second-half of the innings and with the bat in the last six overs. That is something they would want to address.

Familiarity may help

Italy arrived in Kolkata only on Saturday after spending a week in Chennai. They had a training session at Eden Gardens but Scotland have the familiarity of playing at the venue already. That experience may come in handy.

Scotland vs Italy
@ Kolkata | 11 AM

Other matches

Zimbabwe vs Oman
@ Colombo | 3 PM

South Africa vs Canada
@ Ahmedabad | 7 PM

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS AND JIOHOTSTAR

Nepal suffered a four-run defeat against England in Mumbai on Sunday | PTI

Nepal show spirit in England defeat

FIROZ MIRZA @ Mumbai

RAMRO hunu huncha, bhai? (Are you good, brother?) The Nepali words were heard across the Wankhede Stadium when Nepal played England at the T20 World Cup here on Sunday. Some of the stands were brimming with the country's supporters, sporting their jerseys. One of the acronyms on the team shirt is CAN (short form for Cricket Association of Nepal) with the rhino head on its crest.

The way they were playing, Nepal indicated that they CAN and able to create an upset this time. What started as an improbable run-chase turned into something surreal entering the last over — 10 runs off six balls in modern day T20 game is considered routine, a casual walk in the park. However, for the nascent cricketing nation, those 10 runs seemed like an eternity as they fell four runs short of the target of 185 set by one of the oldest cricketing nations. For some of the fans who had endured journeys of over 40 hours to reach the venue the day turned into a fulfilment of a lifetime. Those tedious hours spent on buses and trains evaporated into hope, even though their team lost. Along with fond memories they would be carrying dollops of hope.

For a nation that has just one international ground to train, this is monumental. On multiple occasions, the team travelled to India to train and practice ahead of the big tournaments. Because of political interference, the world governing body (ICC) suspended them for three years sending all cricketing activities and cash flow to a screeching halt.

They first made their debut in the T20 World Cup way back in 2014 but had to wait for a decade to qualify again for the tournament. Even when they made it to the event two years ago, they struggled to arrange funds for training and exposure tours. It was when CAN drafted a proposal and sent it to the Nepal government seeking financial assistance. Fortunately, the government agreed and sanctioned NPR five crore. The trust shown by the government made the CAN to organise various trips for the team ahead of the marquee event. They also invited a West Indies A team to Nepal and went on a tour to Vapi, Gujarat, where the players had a triangular series with domestic teams from the state. After those preparations, the players and support staff flew to Florida.

It changed their fortunes as they managed to give a big scare to the Proteas. Yadav admits such outings highlight their progress. "I think we are improving in a good way. Matches like this are good for us and for the crowd as well. It shows our standard is going up. If we keep playing like this, the next games will also be good for us," he said.

The 25-year-old right-arm pacer said the match was also a learning curve. "For me personally, there is a lot of talk about my wide balls, so that's something I need to work on. As a bowling unit, we need to focus more on death overs. We tend to concede more runs there, so that's an area we must improve. But it's part of the game and we accept it." He also said saving a few runs while bowling and taking more singles while batting can make a big difference while going forward. "Those small moments change games at this level," he affirmed.

Apart from foreign aid and occasional support from the government, the Nepal Premier League has also contributed to the growth of the sport in the country. It became a launching pad for up and coming cricketers and Yadav is one its beneficiaries. Offie Sher Malla, who made his international debut on Sunday, is another cricketer who rose to prominence after featuring in the league.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

BRIEF SCORES: England 184/7 in 20 ovs (J Bethell 55, H Brook 53; D Singh Airee 2/23) **bt** Nepal 180/6 in 20 ovs (D Singh Airee 44, L Bam 39 n.o; L Dawson 2/21).

Lanka off to happy start

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

KUSAL Mendis hit an unbeaten 56 while Kamindu Mendis slamed quick-fire 44 as co-hosts Sri Lanka started their campaign with a win over Ireland in Colombo on Sunday.

Sri Lanka, on a sluggish surface, posted 163/6 in 20 overs largely thanks to the duo's contributions. Ireland, in reply, finished at 143, falling short of Lanka's total by 20 runs. Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana claimed three wickets each.

BRIEF SCORES: SL 163/6 in 20 ovs (K Mendis 56 n.o, Kamindu Mendis 44) **bt** Ireland 143 in 19.5 ovs (Tector 40, Adair 34; Theekshana 3/23, Hasaranga 3/25).

ICC, PCB to hold talks over India tie

KARACHI: Bangladesh Cricket Board president Amin ul Islam has arrived in Lahore ahead of a virtual meeting involving the PCB and ICC, amid efforts to resolve the standoff over Pakistan's proposed boycott of its T20 World Cup match against India. A former Test cricketer, Amin ul Islam met PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi in Lahore and is expected to be part of the virtual discussions aimed at persuading Pakistan to reconsider its decision not to play India in the World T20 Cup clash scheduled for February 15.

Tim rises to the occasion

CHANDRA PRABHU @ Chennai

WHEN Afghanistan's Mujeeb Ur Rahman bowled a vicious googly to Glenn Phillips under the sweltering heat here on Sunday, it hit his bat first before ballooning to silly mid on. The hat-trick ball almost yielded the desired result. The Kiwis, chasing 183, seemed down and out at 14/2. Watching it all unravel at the other end was Tim Seifert. Minds in the Kiwis dugout may have had flashbacks of 2024 edition, when the same rival had bundled them out for 75 runs.

Seifert, however, had other ideas, as he played a big role, his 65 runs guiding New Zealand to a vital win. Seifert and Phillips played out that phase of play but they were always on the look out for boundaries.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Seifert, Phillips guide Kiwis home

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @ Chennai

BLACK CAPS opener Tim Seifert, all-rounder Glenn Phillips guided New Zealand to a five-wicket over Afghanistan in the opening game of Group D of the Men's T20 World Cup at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Sunday.

They successfully saw off the Afghan spinners, although they had a tough start. They were dealt with a double-blow when spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman sent both danger batters in Finn Allen and Rachin Ravindra. Both their stumps were sent flying by beautiful deliveries.

Those two wickets may have brought deja vu to the Kiwis dugout, when they lost to the same opponent in the 2024 edition in the Caribbean Islands.

However, the third wicket partnership of 74 runs between Seifert and Phillips had otherwise, helping the team recover from 14 for 2 and build the platform for a comfortable win. Skipper Mitchell Santner (17 n.o) and Daryl Mitchell's unbeaten 25, after added contribution from Mark Chapman 28 ensured the Kiwis reach the target in the 18th over.

New Zealand's Tim Seifert (R) slammed 42-ball 65 on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

Santner expressed delight over his team's effort and to start the campaign on a winning note. "It was a good day. We knew coming in, that Afghanistan are a threat and they showed that on today. We knew it was a massive game for us. It was a pretty good performance," Santner.

BRIEF SCORES: Afghanistan 182/6 in 20 ovs (Naib 63, Atal 29; Ferguson 2/40) lost to NZ 183/5 ovs (Seifert 65, Phillips 42).

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Elavenil-Babuta clinch mixed team gold

NEW DELHI: Olympians Elavenil Valarivan and Arjun Babuta proved an unstoppable pair, clinching the 10m air rifle mixed team gold with a flawless display as Indian shooters continued their dominance at the Asian Championship on Sunday. Elavenil, fresh off her gold in the women's air rifle on Saturday, fired 253.4 from 24 shots in the four-team final, while Babuta recovered from a shaky start in the medal round to finish strongly with 251.6, sealing their gold.

Boxers win nine gold medals in BOXAM Elite 2026

LA NUCIA (SPAIN): Olympic medallist Lovlina Borgohain and former Youth World champion Arundhati Choudhary led from the front as India wrapped up a highly successful BOXAM Elite International 2026 tournament with a dominant show, clinching nine gold medals in the event here. In a standout achievement, India was represented in seven elite women's finals on Saturday, including an all-Indian title clash in the 54 kg division and emerged with gold in each of them.

Tejaswin clinches India's lone gold in Asian meet

TIANJIN (CHINA): Tejaswin Shankar won the men's heptathlon event to clinch India's lone gold as the country ended the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships campaign with five medals here. India finished overall sixth in medals tally. China topped the chart with 34 medals.

USA great Vonn crashes out of Winter Olympics

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO: Lindsey Vonn crashed out of the Winter Olympics downhill on Sunday, brutally ending the American skiing great's improbable dream of winning a medal despite competing with a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament. Vonn was just 13 seconds into her run when she lost control.

Memorable service for Suresh & Co

ENS @ Bengaluru

INDIA'S Dhakshineshwar Suresh did the star turn for the hosts as he produced a memorable show in the final rubber against The Netherlands to help India advance to the next phase of the Davis Cup. Suresh, playing the last singles rubber after Sumit Nagal had lost, needed a win to take India into a second round qualifier against South Korea later in the year. That's exactly what he did as he beat Guy den Ouden 6-4, 7-6 (4).

Yuki Bhambri (R) and Dhakshineswar Suresh celebrate their win | KEVIN NASHON

Man City beat Liverpool to keep title hopes alive

AGENCIES @ London

MANCHESTER City kept their title hopes alive with a 2-1 win over Liverpool at Anfield in the Premier League on Sunday.

Having gone behind after Dominik Szoboszlai's brilliant free-kick goal in the 74th minute, City fought back to claim all three points. Bernardo Silva scored the equaliser while Erling Haaland scored the decisive goal in stoppage time, which was filled with drama. City are now six points behind leaders Arsenal.

Earlier, Ismaila Sarr's second-half goal helped Crystal Palace end a woeful 12-match winless run with a 1-0 victory away to bitter rivals Brighton.

The Eagles' victory was their first in all competitions since December 11 and took them to 13th in the league table.

RANJI TROPHY

Rahul hits unbeaten half-century as Karnataka chase 325

AGENCIES @ Mumbai

INDIA batter KL Rahul hit a fine half-century to hand Karnataka a slight edge over Mumbai at stumps on Day 3 of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal here on Sunday.

Chasing 325, Rahul was unbeaten on 60 off 94 balls with the help of seven boundaries and together with captain Devdutt Padikkal (39), shared 84 runs for the second wicket to help Karnataka end the day at 113 for two in 29 overs, needing another 212 runs to register an outright win. Karun Nair (9 not out) was at the crease alongside Rahul at the close of play. Off-spinner Tanush Kotian (1/13) and skipper Shardul Thakur (1/24) picked up a wicket each for Mumbai. Earlier, resuming their second innings at 189 for 2, wicket-keeper Akash Anand (70) added 17 runs to his overnight score while Musheer Khan made 49. Mumbai posted 377 all out in 98.3 overs, thereby setting a target of 325 runs.

Gharami double ton

KALYANI (WB): Sudip Kumar Gharami struck a career-defining maiden double century as Bengal tightened their grip over Andhra to take a handy 123-run first-innings lead at stumps on the third day here.

BRIEF SCORES: Mumbai: 120 & 377 in 98.3 ovs (A Ananad 70, M Khan 49, T Kotian 48, T Deshpande 47; S Shetty 3/45) vs Karnataka 173 & 113/2 in 29 ovs (KL Rahul 60, D Padikkal 39; T Kotian 1/13). Andhra 295 vs Bengal 418/6 in 146 ovs (S Kumar Gharami 216 batting, S Gupta 81; KV Sasikanth 2/59, S Kumar 2/81).

EDUCATION BUDGET 2026–27 DECODED

The year ahead

Key allocations outline the government's current focus areas in education

RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND SKILLING

- **One Nation One Subscription | ₹2,200 cr**
  Access to global research journals for universities and public labs
- **PM Research Chairs | ₹200 cr**
  Fund senior research posts in priority areas across universities and research labs
- **AI CoEs for education | ₹100 cr**
  Centres of Excellence to develop and test AI tools for teaching and assessment
- **World Class Institutions | ₹900 cr**
  Support select institutions to upgrade faculty and research infrastructure
- **Atal Tinkering Labs | ₹3,200 cr**
  Expand school innovation labs that train students in hands-on problem-solving
- **Apprenticeship training | ₹1,250 cr**
  Scale industry-linked training seats for students and early-career workers
- **Research fellowships | ₹600 cr**
  Fund doctoral and post-doctoral fellows to sustain long research pipelines nationwide
- **Digital education (ICT) | ₹650 cr**
  Invest in platforms, content, devices, and connectivity for tech-enabled learning

SCHOOL EDUCATION SCHEMES

- **Samagra Shiksha | ₹42,100 cr**
  Funds teachers, classrooms, learning support, and school facilities across states
- **PM POSHAN | ₹12,750 cr**
  Funds mid-day meals to support nutrition, attendance, learning readiness and retention
- **Kendriya Vidyalayas | ₹10,129 cr**
  Funds central schools for transferable families, plus local admissions support
- **Navodaya Vidyalayas | ₹6,025 cr**
  Funds residential schools to widen rural access and nurture academic talent
- **PM SHRI schools | ₹7,500 cr**
  Funds model schools to strengthen labs, classrooms, teacher support, and learning spaces
- **NCERT | ₹682 cr**
  Funds curriculum updates, textbook production, teacher materials, and academic research support
- **Merit scholarships | ₹381 cr**
  Funds financial aid for eligible students based on academic performance criteria

INSTITUTIONS AND UNIVERSITIES

- **Central universities | ₹17,440 cr**
  Funding for teaching, administration, and academic expansion
- **Indian Institutes of Technology | ₹12,123 cr**
  Support for technical education, research, and infrastructure
- **University Grants Commission | ₹3,709 cr**
  Regulatory and funding support for higher education institutions
- **Indian Institutes of Management | ₹292 cr**
  Allocation for management education and institutional needs
- **Ministry of AYUSH institutions | ₹4,408 cr**
  Includes plans for three new All India Institute of Ayurveda campuses

GIRLS' HOSTELS

The Budget proposes one girls' hostel in every district to ease accommodation gaps that keep many young women from pursuing higher education away from home. If rolled out well, it could improve safety, retention, and access for students from smaller towns. The impact will depend on clear funding, timelines, and long-term upkeep.

UNIVERSITY TOWNSHIPS

Five university townships are proposed along industrial and logistics corridors to link education with jobs.

AVGC LABS

AVGC labs are proposed in 15,000 schools and 500 colleges to support animation, gaming, and comics careers.

ON EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT SKILLS

The Budget's emphasis on connecting education to employment is timely. The Education to Employment and Enterprise Standing Committee and university townships with shared research infrastructure can be decisive if they bring sustained funding, faculty development, and genuine autonomy.

— Prof V Ramgopal Rao, Group vice chancellor, BITS Pilani

ON SKILLING AND INCLUSIVE OUTCOMES

The Budget recognises that infrastructure alone cannot deliver inclusive growth without employable skills. The emphasis on NSQF-aligned education, allied health disciplines, and structured para-professional pathways points to job-linked capability creation. Skills embedded in higher education can translate spend into livelihoods.

— Pravesh Dudani, founder and chancellor, Medhavi Skills University

ON STUDENT COSTS AND WELLBEING

We welcome the focus on education, employability, and wellbeing. The cut in TCS under LRS for education and medical expenses abroad from 5% to 2% will ease cash-flow pressure. With sustained implementation, these measures can strengthen India's human capital.

— Arun Rajamani, MD, Cambridge University Press and Assessment, South Asia

ON GROWTH AND MARKET CONFIDENCE

The Budget focuses on balanced growth across MSMEs, manufacturing, tourism, energy, and infrastructure, which can support jobs and exports. It could have pushed further on startups and deep-tech through stronger research incentives and fiscal relief. The STT hike has affected capital market sentiment.

— Prof Arya Kumar, senior professor, BITS Pilani, Pilani campus

ON SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CAPACITY

The Budget places education, skills, science, and healthcare at the centre of India's growth strategy. Stronger STEM ecosystems and research infrastructure, alongside AI-enabled learning and targeted investments in biopharma, can build a future-ready talent pipeline and stronger innovation capacity.

— Somak Raychaudhury, vice chancellor, Ashoka University

HIGHER EDUCATION, TECH BOOST SCORE OVER SCHOOLS IN GROWING ECONOMY

MODEST REAL INCREASE

The increased sectoral allocation by Rs 11,000 crore over the 2025–26 Budget figure of Rs 1.28 lakh crore looks significant, but may not suggest any firm change in policy stance. "While the nominal rate of increase might seem substantial, the hike is rather modest when seen in real terms. After adjusting for inflation, the rise in education spending would amount to around four per cent," she says.

SKILLING FOR THE INDUSTRY

The Budget appears closely aligned with outcomes in skilling. Allocations for apprenticeships and vocational pathways have risen sharply in tune with the industry sentiment that has highlighted the gap between education and employability. "Companies increasingly see upskilling new hires as a burden and prefer graduates who are already job-ready," she explains.

KARTHIKEYA S

AMID renewed emphasis on skilling, employability, digital learning, and creator economy, the Union Budget 2026 has proposed to raise education spending from ₹1.28 lakh crore in 2025 to ₹1.39 lakh crore. Much of it has been allocated for capital-heavy initiatives, from setting up university townships and AI labs to expanding skilling infrastructure, with a focus on higher education.

Chartered Accountant Dr Divya Abhishek says the government has made its intent clear about the approach it wants to take. "The Union government is focusing on creating skilled and job-ready graduates aligned with current industry standards. Through university townships, there is emphasis on research, industry collaboration, and practical learning," she says.

She argues that the tilt towards higher education in this Budget reflects a belief in the policy circles that stronger research and employability pipelines will deliver quicker economic returns, than incremental school-level spending.

She also notes that the increased sectoral allocation may look significant at the first glance, but the real question is whether the rise marks a change in policy direction or simply keeps pace with rising annual costs. "While the nominal rate of increase might seem substantial, the hike is rather modest when seen in real terms. After adjusting for inflation, the rise in education spending would amount to around four per cent," she says.

Many observers note that successive Budgets have tended to downplay school education in favour of higher and technical education. In fact, this has been a criticism of the education policy since the time of the Independence. This Budget continues with the trend and has given only a marginal hike to school education. Abhishek suggests this may indicate sequential preference of the government rather than neglect of a particular sector. She says that the government seems to be choosing a consolidation of higher education capacity before larger pushes in schooling are made at the grassroots.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

On the innovative side, the Budget's explicit backing of digital learning and AI infrastructure adds another layer to the debate. On the face of it, this policy intervention seems not just novel, but need of the hour too. But, it also has a bottleneck. New laboratories, digital platforms, and content-creation spaces are meant to modernise classrooms, or even take education out of the classrooms, but their success lies in readiness among teachers. "Even one crore AI labs across India would not generate the desired outcome if teachers are not prepared to use them. Balancing professional development with infrastructure delivers better returns," Abhishek says. She adds that teachers need incentives and institutional support to integrate new tools meaningfully, otherwise the investment risks becoming ornamental.

Where the Budget appears more closely aligned with outcomes is in skilling. Allocations for apprenticeships and vocational pathways have risen sharply, and industry sentiment has long indicated the need for graduates who require less training at workplaces. "Companies increasingly see upskilling new hires as a burden and prefer graduates who are already job-ready," she explains.

The enhanced skilling outlays, in her view, acknowledge this gap and attempt to bridge education with employment more directly.

Yet one long-standing gap persists. Education spending remains at the low level of around 2.6 per cent of the total Union expenditure, far below the six per cent of GDP benchmark envisioned in policy documents and backed by global research. Abhishek attributes this not to a lack of intent but to broader fiscal constraints. "Public spending has never reached the six per cent benchmark despite repeated recommendations. The shortfall points to revenue limitations, even though this Budget does show a noticeable increase and a stronger push for infrastructure," she says. She believes the benchmark should be seen as a trajectory, a goal approached gradually rather than achieved in a single year.

Among the omissions, Abhishek highlights one relatively modest, yet high-impact, intervention: reducing GST on online education. "Despite the push for digital learning and technology in education, GST on online education remains at 18 per cent," she says. Lowering it, she argues, would immediately improve access for students in Tier II and Tier III cities and rural regions, which are precisely the groups the Budget aims to empower.

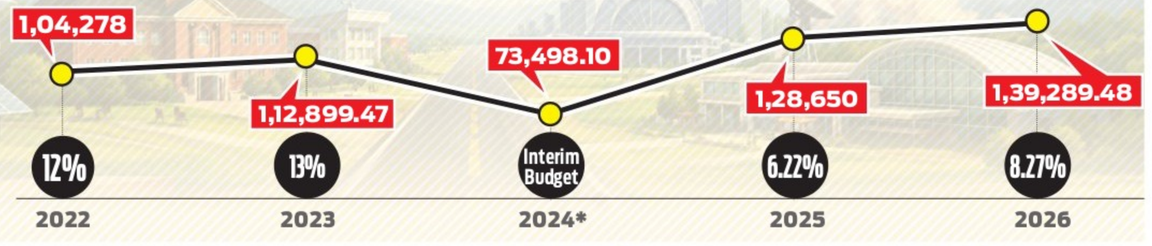
The Budget backs digital learning and AI infrastructure. New labs, digital platforms, and content-creation spaces can modernise classrooms, but their success lies in readiness among teachers. "Even one crore AI labs across India would not generate the desired outcome if teachers are not prepared to use them. Balancing professional development with infrastructure delivers better returns — Divya Abhishek, Chartered Accountant

Tracking The Trends

Education budget (₹ crore) | Change from previous year

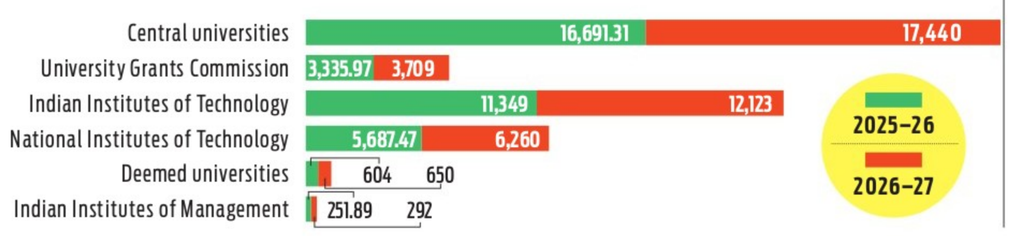
Note: 2024 was an Interim Budget; figures shown are nominal, not inflation-adjusted

Over the past five years, India's education budget has shown a steady rise in headline terms, culminating in a record allocation in 2026–27.



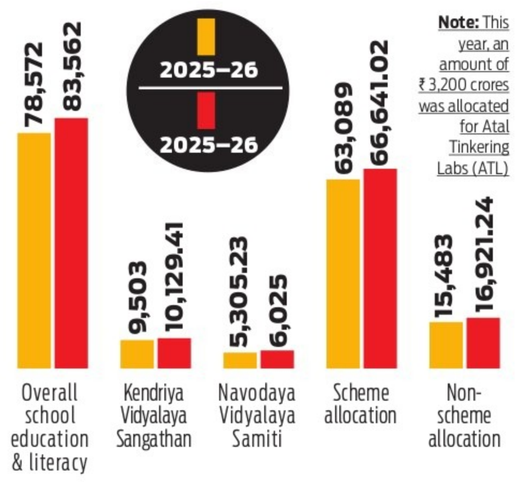
Higher education allocations, compared

Allocations rose in 2026–27, largely benefiting centrally funded institutions. The table compares funding levels in institutes across two consecutive years



Where school education funding will go

School education continues to receive the largest share of education funding, with modest increases across systems and schemes. Here is how allocations changed between the last two financial years, in crores.



Note: This year, an amount of ₹3,200 crores was allocated for Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)

Policy To Practice

'EMPHASIS ON GIRLS' HOSTEL IN EVERY DISTRICT, CREATOR ECONOMY ARE BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS'

RAUNAQ BAJAJ

SUBIKSHA Hari Shankar, an undergraduate student at MOP Vaishnav College for Women in Chennai, finds many bright spots on the Union Budget 2026. She considers the proposal to establish girls' hostels in every district a pathbreaking move, which would support access to education, particularly in STEM disciplines.

Speaking with Edexlive from her personal experience, she said, "Safety was my parents' foremost concern when I enrolled for college, followed by affordability." While she acknowledged her privilege in being able to access secure accommodation, she said that many students are unable to afford private hostels, which is a gap this Budget initiative can effectively fill.

Shankar said that the Budget supports measures to prolong women scholars' stay in the education system. She noted that the option of viability gap funding would boost women's participation, align with the National Education Policy, and contribute to the broader goal of a developed India. Pointing to the 11.28 per cent increase in budgetary allocation for higher education, she observed that dropout rate among women tends to be higher at advanced stages of education. Increased funding at this level, she said, could directly address this challenge.

Subiksha Hari Shankar

Shankar felt that proposed initiatives, like linking education with employment and entrepreneurship, the establishment of a National Institute of Design (NID) with a focus on animation, visual effects, and gaming, provisions for the differently abled, and the development of university townships will further strengthen the education sector in the country and promote inclusive growth.

She is particularly enthused about the establishment of a dedicated NID that appeals directly to Gen Z. She described it as a progressive shift away from traditional academic streams towards creative fields. With the government planning to implement such programmes in around 15,000 secondary schools and 500 colleges, she said that it could legitimise and promote career paths that are often socially discouraged and not understood well by earlier generations. "Students are often guided towards conventional fields, like engineering or computer science, and pursuing alternative careers requires considerable personal effort," she said. In that context, she views the Budget's emphasis on creative industries as a timely and positive intervention.

While discussing the broader impact of education-related announcements, Shankar added the focus on women in the Budget acted as a source of motivation. However, she said that caution should be taken to plug leakages of policy implementation at the grassroots, so that it can avoid mistakes of the past when good policies were announced but found wanting on the ground.

UPCOMING EXAMS

Board exams (Class X and XII)

CBSE ● Class X, XII
FEBRUARY 17, 2026
Main papers plus electives as per date sheet listed

ICSE ● Class X
FEBRUARY 17 TO MARCH 30, 2026
Main papers plus options as per timetable

ISC ● Class XII (CISCE)
FEBRUARY 12 TO APRIL 6, 2026
Streams and electives as per timetable set

STATE BOARDS ● Class X, XII (varies)
Dates differ by state but schedules generally run from February to April

National entrance tests & recruitment

GATE ● PG, PSU entry
FEBRUARY 7, 8, 14 AND 15, 2026
Computer-based t.est across centres

IIT JAM ● IITs, IISc entry
FEBRUARY 15, 2026
Two sessions held for subject-wise papers

JEE MAIN ● Session 2, engineering
APRIL 2 TO 9, 2026
online test for NITs, IIITs and other colleges

NEET ● Medical UG entry
Offline exam for MBBS and BDS admissions, 2026 date yet to be notified

UPSC ● Prelims and Mains cycle
MAY 24, 2026
Mains begins August 21, 2026, as per calendar

AIIMS NORCET-10 ● Stage I APRIL 11, 2026
recruitment test for nursing positions

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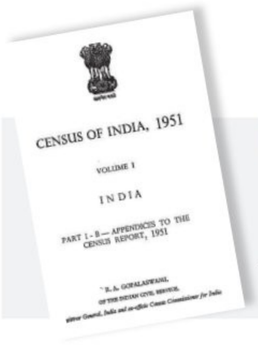


DAY'S DIARY

Census of 1951

On this day in 1951, the enumeration period of the first census of Independent India was initiated

CENSUS TIMELINE

The enumeration period of the census went on till February 28. A three-day revisional round from March 1 to 3 was undertaken to update the data

ENUMERATION OF CASTE

In the 1951 Census, the government ordered that caste should not be enumerated. However, an exception has been made for SCs and STs ever since

EXCLUSION OF J&K

The entire Jammu and Kashmir was excluded from census and its population was estimated on the basis of past census figures

Bun intended

PG 3

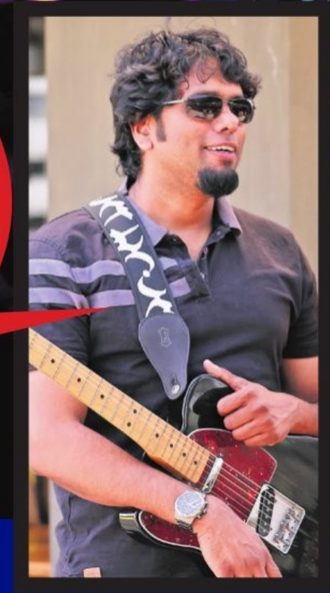
With Arijit Singh's recent retirement from playback music rocking Bollywood, musicians weigh in on what the superstar's potential turn to indie will mean for the industry

PIC: @ARIJITSINGH ON INSTAGRAM

INDIEPENDENT PATH

People are coming back to indie because Bollywood is getting stale. We're all desperately trying to find new sounds

Karthik Chennoji Rao, musician



Where will there be space for indie musicians who have comparatively less success, now competing with superstars for the same pie?

Bruce Lee Mani, musician

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

SINCE the 2013 hit ballad *Tum Hi Ho* from *Aashiqui 2* left everyone misty-eyed and catapulted him to superstardom, Arijit Singh's voice has made us believe in love and broken our hearts many times over. Capturing the elation of chasing dreams in *Illahi*, the longing of separation in *Agar Tum Saath Ho* and leaving behind the bittersweetness of goodbyes with *Channa Mereya* – if there's one voice that left its trace across the last decade's Bollywood music, it's Singh's. So when he announced his retirement from playback singing last week, all hell broke loose, with rumours abounding and the who's who of the film industry requesting that he reconsider or coming in support. The independent music scene, however, is greeting this move with optimism for what it means to have the playback singer venturing in their direction.

While quitting playback music when you're the number one Indian artiste, may be unprecedented, Karthik Chennoji Rao, an independent musician and Kannada playback singer, notes that fatigue is not all that uncommon. "The industry is difficult to navigate and people get disillusioned. I know local artistes who have taken a step back from playback singing because it got too much. I see this as a logical step forward."

At an industry level, some hope this brings more film music fans into indie music and much-needed investment, even as indie music has grown in popularity among young audiences and nurtured big acts like Hanumankind, Lifafa, Peter Cat Recording Co, in recent years. "Indie music has always overshadowed playback, being a niche within the industry. When big names come in, it could open up new avenues for big labels and anyone with the capital. This can boost the music economy where the financial burden [of making, producing, promoting music] still falls on the artiste," says Joel Sakkari, aka, 'Sakre'.

This moment feels like a reversal of the formula seen since the '90s – indie musicians making it big and switching to playback, or keeping one foot in both worlds. Rao hopes this might be a sign of artistic renewal, as he says, "It feels cyclic because back in the day, Bollywood music sounded the same but there were breakout indie artistes – Shaan, Lucky Ali, Adnan Sami and Alisha Chinai– who were releasing popular albums. Bollywood then took them in, kicking off a new golden era. Something like that is happening now, where people are coming back to indie because Bollywood is getting stale. We're all desperately trying to find new sounds and everybody wants to tap into the indie crowd energy with fans that come to shows, pay for tickets and feel an emotional connection with you."

Others are more cautiously optimistic, noting that it all depends on the direction Singh takes – hoping for experimentation but wondering if he will continue making songs with mass appeal. "If he releases music independently, he could have ownership over his own performance," says Vishruti Bindal. The co-founder of Linear Festivals, adds, "The nature of playback means that someone's directing your performance, someone else is composing in collaboration, etc. In indie music, there's freedom in the way music is performed, written, constructed and arranged. It would be exciting to see him explore genres beyond what he's known for. But if the point of going independent is to still make the same music – I'm not sure how to feel about that."

Bruce Lee Mani too, points to a potential downside. "If more people who already have massive success within the film industry decide to follow suit, where will there be space for indie musicians who have comparatively less success, now competing with superstars for the same pie?"

Building it block by block

Fresh off sealing a multi-crore deal, Vibha Harish, whose wellness brand has been acquired at an equity valuation of ₹375 crore, on turning a personal health challenge into a big win

Vibha Harish and Soorya Jagadish

ANJALI RAM

WHEN a 20-something Vibha Harish started her entrepreneurial journey in 2019 after dabbling in a family arts and crafts business, she wasn't really thinking of building a buzzy wellness brand. The idea popped up from her own experience of dealing with PCOS and understanding that when it comes to health, it cannot be treated in bits and pieces. Thus, began the building of Cosmix, a plant-based nutrition brand that an FMCG major recently acquired at an equity valuation of approximately ₹375 crore – taking a 60 per cent stake. "We were trying to reach more homes with clean ingredients. After speaking with multiple parties, we realised a strategic partner made the most sense which is how the deal came about," says Harish.

However, the growth was never rushed. Until its majority acquisition, the brand remained bootstrapped, which, in a way, allowed space for growth without external pressure. "When you don't have investors from day one, you're not being told what to launch or what will sell faster. You're forced to be mindful of spending, decisions and beliefs," she says, adding that the slow and steady route eventually led to the partnership. "It wasn't just money. We wanted someone who wouldn't change our offerings."

Harish started the company at 24, with her now husband Soorya Jagadish joining the business two years later. The duo was also on *Shark Tank Season 3* in 2024, returning with ₹1 crore for 1 per cent equity with the condition of 1 per cent royalty till the ₹1 crore is recouped.

Growing up around the health practises of her mother, a homoeopathic doctor, she believed that healing takes time and patience. "You can't want good skin but not sleep on time, or want to build muscle without taking care of your gut. Health doesn't work in silos, and no change happens overnight. So much of wellness marketing is driven by insecurity. You see quick fixes, miracle timelines and false guarantees that only make people, who are already insecure, feel worse. None of it is nourishing or honest. I felt there was a real gap for ethical communication," she says.

Her family support played a crucial part in navigating the uncertainty of a new business amidst starting troubles and the pandemic. "When you start something new, you're vulnerable. In those moments, you lean heavily on those around you like I did on," she says.

Back in 2019 when she set up the fledging venture, Harish was walking down a supermarket aisle, finding that most of the beauty and nutrition-related products were focused on telling us how our bodies should be. "It was important to me to change that narrative. They come from within. And all that matters is how healthy you are. That's what makes a difference," Harish had said in an interview with *CE* in December 2019. She hopes to continue making that difference with plans to increase the offerings with investment pouring in. "Five years from now, if people associate us with clean ingredients, that's good enough for me," she says.

Amid the ongoing cricket buzz, a quick chat with former cricketer **Mithali Raj** who discusses life after cricket and why success today means creating pathways for young girls in sport

SHREYA VERONICA

Beyond boundaries

Tell us about your skincare routine?
Being a former athlete, I try to keep it minimal. Travelling is exhausting, and during broadcasting we're under lights for long hours. Moisturising, sunscreen, and cleansing are extremely important. I've gone through my fair share of trial and error and learnt a lot about my skin type. During my playing days, sunscreen was essential because I was outdoors for hours. Post-retirement, it's not as intense.

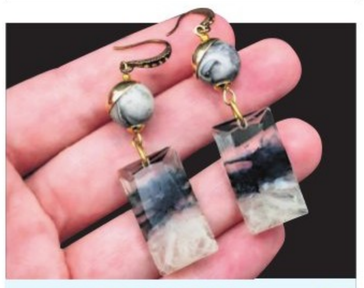
Is it difficult for sportspersons to maintain their skin?
Definitely. When you spend hours training and playing matches – especially in an outdoor sport like cricket – it's very challenging. You can't really protect yourself from the sun, nor can you always choose training timings. Added to that, women deal with hormonal changes as they grow. All of this can be quite taxing when you're an athlete.

What does your fitness regime look like now?
I switch between yoga and strength training. While I was playing, strength training was much more frequent during the week. Now, I limit it to about three times a week and balance it with yoga.

Do you follow a specific diet?
I don't follow a strict diet, I never really did. But post-retirement, I've become more conscious about eating on time and valuing portion control. I've always believed in eating at the right time.

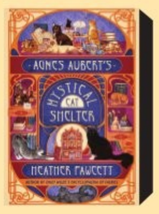
Your favourite cuisine?
Anything home-cooked. Because of constant travel, I end up eating outside food most of the time, so home food is something I truly enjoy.

How would you define success?
Success isn't definite. You achieve one goal and then move on to the next; it's a constant process. When I was playing, success meant performing consistently. Now, as a broadcaster, success is seeing young girls achieve their goals, make a name for themselves, their family, or their state.



CHECK OUT THE BEST EVENTS IN BENGALURU PG 2

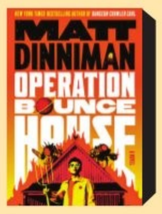
BOOK NOOK



Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter

by Heather Fawcett

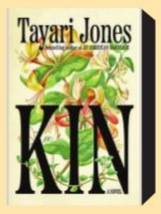
A woman who runs a cat rescue in 1920s Montréal turns to a grouchy but charming magician to help save her shelter in this heartwarming cosy fantasy.



Operation Bounce House

By Matt Dinniman

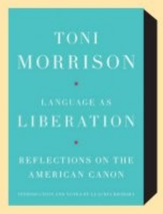
A man must fight for his planet against impossible odds when gamers from Earth attempt to remotely annihilate it in this epic, fast-paced novel from the *New York Times* bestselling author of the smash-hit *Dungeon Crawler Carl*.



Kin

By Tayari Jones

A magnificent new novel from the bestselling, award-winning author that sparkles with wit, intelligence and deep feeling about two lifelong friends whose worlds converge after many years apart, in the face of a devastating tragedy.



Language as Liberation

By Toni Morrison

Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Beloved Toni Morrison* investigates Black characters in the American literary canon and the way they shaped the nation's collective unconscious.

LEADING LINES

Four artists showcase their diverse styles in the 'Echoes Within' exhibition, with this artwork featuring an immersive floor installation at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram | **NAGARAJA GADEKAL**

QUICKFIX

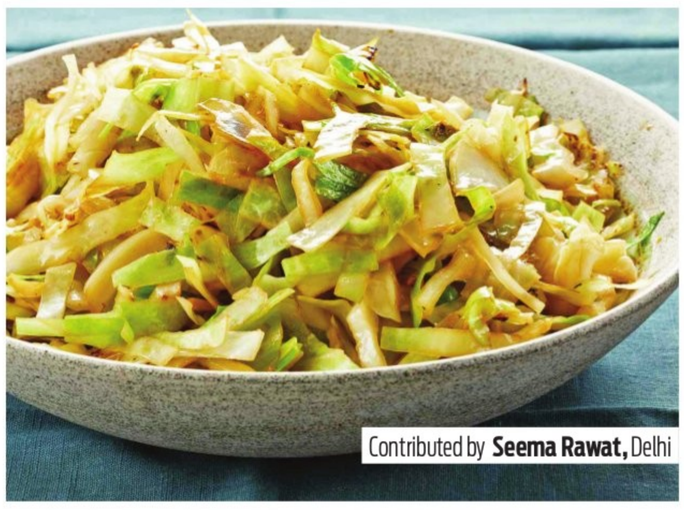
CABBAGE STIR FRY

INGREDIENTS

- **White onion:** 1, thinly sliced
- **Cabbage:** 1/2, large, sliced 1/4-inch thick
- **Freshly ground black pepper**
- **Butter:** 2 tbsp
- **Sugar:** 1 tsp

METHOD

- Melt the butter in a large pan over medium heat. Add the thinly-sliced onion and cabbage and toss to coat with the butter. Saute until slightly wilted, about 5 minutes.
- Sprinkle sugar over the cabbage and toss to coat evenly. Add vinegar and bring to a simmer, then reduce the heat to medium low.
- Cover and simmer until the cabbage is completely tender but not mushy. Stir often, about 30 to 45 minutes total.



Contributed by **Seema Rawat,** Delhi

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Sunrise Trek

Ascend the historic hills for a breathtaking sunrise over the Pandavapura valley. This beginner-friendly night trek leads you through granite boulders and rocky paths to a 2,882 ft summit steeped in *Mahabharata* legend. After the descent, unwind with kayaking and a refreshing dip in the nearby Thonnur Lake.

WHEN: February 9, 11pm
WHERE: Kunti Betta, Pandavapura
DETAILS: highape.com

Weekday Laughs

Catch seasoned and rising comedians testing fresh material in a dynamic showcase. The daily lineup remains a surprise. Pair the sharp humour with food at a cafe with your friends for a mid-week night out.

WHEN: February 9, 8.30pm onwards
WHERE: Klayworkz Barista, JP Nagar
DETAILS: district.in

Stadium on Screens

Witness the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 with your friends, sipping some drinks and enjoying some dishes. Catch every match live on a big screen with an electric atmosphere, beer buckets and some shareable platters like the PowerPlay and Wings platters. One can participate in the matchday prediction contests to win free pints or buckets!

WHEN: February 9, 11am onwards
WHERE: SOCIAL, Indiranagar
CALL: 86578 96572

Resin Jewels

Design resin earrings or pendants in this meditative, slow-paced workshop. Master resin casting basics, from mixing glitters and botanicals to achieving a high-gloss finish. Perfect for creating meaningful gifts or signature pieces, this experience offers a guided environment where you can craft at your own pace.

WHEN: February 9, 6.45pm
WHERE: Fabrizo – Creative Activity Hub, BTM Layout
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Fun Lessons

Build a joyful long-term rhythm for children aged 2–6 with themed weekly rituals. This sensory storytelling offers pressure-free learning and consistent fun. Attend this event if you are looking for some unique ways for your little ones to explore curiosity, art and play every single week.

WHEN: February 9, 4pm onwards
WHERE: Coro, Domlur
DETAILS: urbanaut.app

Hooked On

Ever wondered how a single thread transforms into art? Join this hands-on workshop to master crochet basics and craft your own handmade piece. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to refine your stitches, attend this event in which all materials are provided for a meditative, creative session of loop-by-loop crafting.

WHEN: February 9, 2pm onwards
WHERE: Thirdspace – Art Cafe and Community, Hosur Main Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Crown Vet, Delhi.

Are there any powders or foods I can add to my half-stray's diet to care for her dental hygiene?

Dental powder can't replace brushing or professional cleanings, but they help reduce plaque, tartar and bad breath when used consistently. Here are a few good options: ProDen Plaqueoff Powder for Dogs & Cats and Beaphar Dental Powder Dog & Cat Vetriscience Healthy Mouth for All Dogs + Cats. You can also use dental-specific treats or chews, However a professional cleaning is very much required to take care of dental plaque and periodontal infections.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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FITBIT

SMART DINING-OUT STRATEGIES FOR WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Dining out can be difficult when trying to manage your weight and diet. But it does not need to be difficult if you follow small strategies to dine out smartly.

CHOOSE RESTAURANTS AND MENUS MINDFULLY:

- Pick places with healthier, balanced options like grilled, baked, steamed, or roasted dishes rather than deep-fried or creamy preparations.
- Check the menu online before you go to plan your meal. It makes healthier choices easier and reduces impulse ordering.

ORDER WITH INTENT:

- Prioritise foods high in lean protein and vegetables.
- Ask for sauces and dressings on the side so you can control added fats and sugars.
- Request swaps like vegetables instead of fries or grilled sides instead of creamy ones.

AVOID HIDDEN CALORIES:

- Skip free starters; these can add unplanned calories before your main course.
- Stay away from heavy, cream-based curries or rich gravies.
- Be cautious with desserts and sugary drinks.

PORTION AND PACE:

- Restaurant servings are often larger than needed.
- Eat slowly and savour each bite.

STAY HYDRATED:

- Drink water before and during your meal. Water can help reduce overeating and cut back on calorie-laden beverages.
- Choose water or unsweetened beverages over sugary sodas or high-calorie mocktails.

MINDFUL PREPARATION:

- Don't skip meals earlier in the day to 'save up', this can lead to overeating due to hunger.
- Asking for modifications (less oil, no added salt, extra veggies) empowers healthier choices without missing out on social dining.

BALANCE ENJOYMENT WITH GOALS:

Dining out doesn't have to derail progress, it can be an opportunity to practice mindful eating and choose nourishing options while still enjoying the experience.

By Madhura P Behki, nutrition expert, cult – a fitness and wellness platform

ARTCORNER

BENEATH A GREEN-HUED SKY

Artist Sudhayadas S paints a landscape with clusters of houses, winding paths, water bodies and thick foliage spread across a vast terrain

BUN INTENDED

CE takes a look at how buns have evolved across cultures and the many ways it is being reimagined in home kitchens

SUPRIYA

UNASSUMING and adaptable, the humble bun has made itself present all around the world. From street-side vendors to gourmet restaurants, buns appear in countless forms, inspired by the region. Its origins may be tough to trace, but its presence is hard to ignore.

Europe has its long-standing bun traditions. England's hot cross bun still finds pride of place every Good Friday. The brioche bun, France's latest gift to the world from its rich culinary traditions, is now a burger essential worldwide, redefining the simple bread roll. Further north, Sweden's cinnamon-laced kanelbulle captures the spirit of 'fika', the country's cherished coffee break ritual.

Across Asia, varieties of steamed buns are found, different from Europe's baked versions. From China, the soft and pillowy bao often filled with pork, chicken, vegetables or

something sweet, has become a global favourite. Japan's anpan, with its sweet red-bean filling, continues to evoke nostalgia. In India, the reliable pav anchors Mumbai's vada pav or pav bhaji, both street-side staples. The subtly sweet Mangalorean bun, paired with coconut chutney, remains a unique variety found here. Then there is the bun maska brought to India by the Parsi community, who fled Iran during religious persecution, a simple bun sliced, buttered generously and served warm with Irani chai.

Finding its ground in the Irani cafes of Pune and Mumbai, the bun maska has become quite popular. Buns have become cultural connectors, appearing in markets, trendy cafes and home kitchens alike. They cradle, wrap, soak and uplift; no longer remaining just pieces of bread to have on the side or simply skip. Whether steamed, baked, stuffed or spiced, buns continue to hold their place at the global table. Here are some recipes you can easily try at home.

(With inputs from Tanvi Manoj Kurup and Safahath CN)

Tawa Bun Pizza

Ingredients

- Buns (large 3 or small 6, sliced into halves): as needed
- Onion (finely chopped): 1, small
- Capsicum (finely chopped): 1, small
- Sweet corn (boiled): ½ cup
- Tomato (deseeded & chopped): 1, small
- Cheese (processed or mozzarella): ½ cup

Sauce & seasoning

- Tomato ketchup: 3 tbsp
- Tomato sauce or pizza sauce: 1 tbsp
- Dried mixed herbs or oregano: ½ tsp
- Red chilli flakes: ½ tsp
- Garlic powder: ¼ tsp (or minced garlic: ½ tsp)
- Salt and pepper: to taste
- Butter or oil (for toasting): 1-2 tsp

Method

Mix onion, capsicum, tomato and sweet corn with ketchup, sauce, herbs, chilli flakes, garlic, salt and pepper. Spread this vegetable mixture over the cut side of each bun. Top generously with grated cheese. Heat a thick *tawa* on low-medium flame and grease it lightly with butter or oil. Place the buns on the tawa, cover with a lid and cook for 4-6 minutes until the cheese melts and the base turns crisp. Remove and sprinkle extra herbs or chilli flakes if desired. Serve hot.

Masala Egg Bhurji Buns

Ingredients

- Eggs: 4
- Onion (finely chopped): 1
- Tomato (chopped): 1
- Green chillies (chopped): 1
- Ginger-garlic paste: 1 tsp
- Turmeric: ¼ tsp
- Red chilli powder: ½ tsp
- Salt: ½ tsp (adjust to taste)
- Oil: 2 tbsp
- Coriander leaves (chopped): 1 tbsp
- Burger buns or pav: 4-6
- Butter (for toasting): 1 tbsp
- Cheese (optional): as needed

Method: Heat oil, saute onions, chillies, and ginger-garlic paste. Add tomatoes and spices; cook until soft. Pour in whisked eggs and scramble gently. Mix in coriander. Toast buns with butter, fill with hot bhurji, add cheese and heat on low flame for 1-2 minutes.

Spicy Chicken Filled Bun

Ingredients

- Oil: 3 tbsp
- Chopped onion: 1
- Chopped garlic: 4 cloves
- Grated ginger: 1 tsp
- Ground chicken: 450 g
- Kashmiri chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Cumin powder: 1 tsp
- Turmeric: ¼ tsp
- Tomato paste: 3 tbsp
- Salt: as needed
- Pepper: ¼ tsp
- Red chilli powder (optional): ½ tsp
- Green peas: ½ cup
- Sesame seeds (optional): as needed
- Burger buns: 6-8
- Butter (for toasting): 1 tbsp
- Beaten egg or milk (for shine): as needed

Method

Heat oil in a pan and saute the chopped onion until soft. Add garlic and ginger, cook for a minute, then add the minced chicken and all the spices. Cook until the chicken dries up, mix in tomato paste, peas, salt, and pepper, and let the filling come together. Slit the pre-made buns and lightly toast them on a tawa with a little butter. Fill each bun generously with the warm spiced chicken mixture. Cover and heat on low flame for 1-2 minutes so the buns turn soft and the flavours settle. Serve hot, sprinkled with sesame seeds.

Paneer Tikka Stuffed Buns

Ingredients

- Paneer (cubed): 200 g
- Curd: 3 tbsp
- Ginger-garlic paste: 1 tsp
- Kashmiri chilli powder: 1 tsp
- Turmeric: ¼ tsp
- Garam masala: ½ tsp
- Salt: ½ tsp (adjust to taste)
- Oil: 2 tbsp
- Onion (sliced): 1
- Capsicum (sliced): 1
- Burger buns or naan buns: 4-6
- Butter (for toasting): 1 tbsp

Method: Mix paneer with curd, spices and salt. Marinate for 15 minutes. Heat oil, saute onion and capsicum, then add the marinated paneer and cook until dry. Slit buns, toast lightly with butter, and fill with the tikka mixture. Heat on low for 1-2 minutes until warmed through.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, DIVYA D KINI W/o Damodar. G. Kini, Resident of # 26, Shree Laxmi Nilaya, 1st Cross, Chowdiah Block, Near Siddarth School, RT Nagar, Bangalore North, RT Nagar, Bangalore North Bangalore, Karnataka 560032 have changed my name from **KAVITA DAYANAND PAI** to **DIVYA D KINI** vide affidavit dated: 05.02.2026 and sworn before Notary Leela at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Jayashree Deepak Bhingole wife of Deepak Bhingole, R/at No.521, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross, Govinda Reddy Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560076, have changed my name from Jayashri to Jayashree Deepak Bhingole vide affidavit dated 11-12-2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAJASHREE DAYANAND D/O Shri. Nageshwariah Rajashekariah presently residing in 121 San Leon, Irvine, California 92606, USA permanent resident of No 7, "Aashirwad" , 6th Main Road, Happy Valley Layout, Uttarahalli, Bangalore - 560061, Karnataka State, India. I changed my name from **RAJASHREE DAYANAND to SHREE MYSOOR** on my own will sworn before the Superior Court of California, County Of Los Angeles, USA on 14th July 2017, in future I will be known as **SHREE MYSOOR** for all records & communications. Sd/- SHREE MYSOOR

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mr. MANJUNATHA C S/O CHANNAIAH R/at #37, 2nd Block, Gnanabharathi, 2nd State, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore-56. I state that my name mentioned in 10th Marks card as **"MANJUNATHA"** & My Name Mentioned AdharCard & PassPort documents as **"MANJUNTHA C"** both the names belong to same person.Vide affidavit dated **04.02.2026** sworn in before **H.K RAMESH** advocate and notary, Tiptur

CHANGE OF NAME
I, H LOKESH, R/at **#369, Horamavu Main Road, Anjanappa Layout, Near Panchamukhi, Ganesha Temple, Kalyan Nagar, Horamavu , Bangalore - 560043,** I declare that my daughter name mentioned as **"KEERTHANA NALLAKUKKALA LOKESH"** in her Old Aadhar Card & School Records but in my daughter new Adhar Card Her Name mentioned as **"KEERTHANA N L"** both the names belong to same person. My daughter Correct Name is **"KEERTHANA N L"**. Vide affidavit dated **07.02.2026** sworn in before **Y.R Chandrashekar B.Com, LLB** advocate and notary, Bengaluru-560032

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Smt H M RUKMINI** W/o Manjunatha C, residing at No.37, 2nd Block, Gnanabharathi 2nd Stage, Nagadevanahalli, Bangalore-560056, I state that my name is mentioned in my husband Passport "Rukmini Hassan Mandeagowda" & my Passport is "Rukmini Hanumanthapura Manddegowda" both the names are belongs to me only, My Correct Name is **"Rukmini Hanumanthapura Manddegowda"** Vide affidavit dated **04.02.2026**, sworn to before Sri **H K Ramesh,** Advocate & Notary, Govt. of Karnataka, Tiptur.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SOMASHEKAR N,** age 66 years, R/o No. 101, B Wing, 1st Floor, Suraksha Elegence Apartment, Kodichikkanahalli Main Road, BTM 3rd Stage, Bilekahalli, Bangalore South, Bangalore-560 076 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SOMASHEKARA** to **SOMASHEKAR N,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SOMASHEKAR N** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th February 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **HEGDE GANAPATI VENKATARAMAN** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Mrs. GOLLA PUSPALATHA,** W/o Venugopal Yadav, age 41 years, R/at D-102, Sri Amethyst Apartment, Kodigehalli Main Road, Ayyappa Nagar, Basavanapura, Krishnaraja Puram, Bangalore-560 036 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **GOLLA PUSPALATHA** and **YADAV PUSHPALATHA** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I have changed my name from **YADAV PUSHPALATHA** to **GOLLA PUSPALATHA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 04-02-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **K.R. PADMANABHAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **A J SHANTHOO,** S/o V A Joseph, age 66 years, R/at H No. 87, Baslica House, Near Gangamma Temple, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-560 013 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **A J SHANTHU** to **A J SHANTHOO**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **A J SHANTHOO** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th February 2026, sworn before Notary **I. KANIKHA RAJA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ELIZABETH RANI,** C/o Mr. A.J. Shanthoo, legally wedded spouse of A J Shanthoo, presently R/at H No. 87, Baslica House, Near Gangamma Temple, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-560 013 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ELEZEBETH RANI** to **ELIZABETH RANI** and my correct Date of Birth is **22/12/1963**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ELIZABETH RANI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th February 2026, sworn before Notary **I. KANIKHA RAJA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SATISH REDDY K V,** S/o Venkata Reddy .T, age 45 years, R/at No. 19/14, 3rd Main Road, Hosahalli, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **SATISH K V** and **SATISH REDDY K V** are one and the same and refers to me only, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SATISH REDDY K V** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 26.05.2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA N,** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NIKHIL RAJ R,** S/o Raju .N,a ge 18 years, presently R/at No. 3515, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Chandhranagar, Kumaraswamy Layout, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 078 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NIKHIL RAJ .R** to **NIHAL RAJ,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **NIHAL RAJ** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th February 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **B. CHITRA** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SALAGALA KAMARAJU,** S/o S. Munaswamy Chetty, R/at No.5, Manoj Nilayam, Venkateswara Talkies Road, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru-560 036 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SALAGALA KAMARAJU** to **KAMARAJU .S,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **KAMARAJU .S** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th February 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SRINATHA .D.R** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SUTHA RAMESSH** (Old Name), aged about 55 years, W/o. M.K.RAMESH ANAND, RESIDING AT NEW NO.33/1-6, OLD NO. 15, FALT NO. 401, BRB ENCLAVE, DODDA BANASWADI MAIN ROAD, THYAGARAJA LAYOUT, JAIBHARTH NAGAR, BENGALURU NORTH, BENGALURU-560033, KARNATAKA, declare that I have chacnged my name from **SUTHA RAMESSH** (Old Name) to **SUDHA RAMESSH** (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as **SUDHA RAMESSH** (New Name) for all my personal, official & legal purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 06/02/2026 before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N.** at BENGALURU.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SMITA PAI,** presently R/at #1082, I Block, Assetz marq Phase-1, Kannamangala, Kadugodi, Benglauru-560 067 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SMITA GANAPATI GAONKAR** to **SMITA PAI**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **SMITA PAI** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 6th February 2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PRAKASHA .C** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ERANNA H.E,** S/o Late Eranna, age 25 years, R/at Kasaba Hobli, Hullagala, Dadamahalli, Mandya District, Karnataka-571 421, presently R/at No. 105, Ground Floor, 2nd Main Road, near BIPS School, Uttarahalli, Subramanyapura Post, Bangalore-560 061 do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **ERANNA H.E** and **SHIVARAJ H.E** are one and the same and refers to me only, now I intend to change my name to **SHIVARAJ H.E,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SHIVARAJ H.E** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 5-2-2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary **LAKSHMI DEVI .R** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MARIO WESLEY DSOUZA (New Name) previously called **MARIO DSOUZA,** S/o. Late Simon Dsouza, permanent address at Flat No.27014, Wing-27, Sobha Dream Acres, Balagere, Varthur, Bangalore-560087. Hereby declare that, I have changed my name from **'MARIO DSOUZA'** to **'MARIO WESLEY DSOUZA'**, vide Affidavit dated 07.02.2026, Sworn before Advocate and Notary A.M. Rajasekar, Bengaluru.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Mrs. Sonal Mathias,** W/o. Mr. Nicholas Agnelo Mathias, aged about 53 years, residing at No. 30, NTI Layout, 2nd Main Road, RMV Extension, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560094, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that **Sonal Mathias, Sonal Michelle Mathias, Sonal M. Mathias** and **Sonal Nichilas Mathias** are variations of my name and refer to one and the same person i.e. myself, vide affidavit dated 05.02.2026, sworn to before Jalandhara, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Deepa H @ Deepa Jayakannan,** aged about 46 years, W/o. Jayakannan, residing at # SF2 Lakshmi Residency, 36 and 37, 2nd Cross, GPR Royal, Opp. APMC Fruit Market, Hebbagodi, Bangalore South, PO Electronic City, Bangalore-560100, Karnataka, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Deepa H** to **Deepa Jayakannan** are one and the same belongs to me, vide affidavit dated 07.02.2026, sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, THANKAMANI is Mother of Service No 8036024M Rank HAV(Musn) Name RAJEEV.S Permently Residing at Vill: Kandalloor, PO: Kandallur Sub Dist: Karthikappally, Dist Alappuzha, State Kerala, PIN 690535 and Currently residing Jai Jawan Nagar, Banswadi, M.S. Ngar Post, Bangalore - 560 033 have change my name from **THANKAMANI to THANKAMANI.C** vide affidavit dated 07/02/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary, Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore

AFFIDAVIT
I, **SELVANARAYANI**, resident of No. 16/1, Ramanna Road, Cox Town, Jeevanahalli, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SELVANARAYANI .J** to **SELVANARAYANI,** vide affidavit dated 07.02.2026, sworn to before Mamatha .N.K, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Mrs. **SHABREEN TAJ .F**, W/o. Mr. Shaik Imran, Aged about 36 years, Residing at No. 491, 10th Cross, Gangondanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 039, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **THASIYA** to **SHABREEN TAJ .F** vide affidavit dated 07.02.2026 sworn to before R. Basavaraja, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANITHA SELVAM** (old name), born on 20/05/1985 (Place of birth- HOSUR) W/o CHANDRASEKAR resident GF 014, NEO ELITE APARTMENTS, BETASANAPURA ROAD, DODDATHOGURU, ELECTRONIC CITY, BENGALURU - 560100, have changed my surname to **CHANDRASEKAR** after marriage and shall henceforth be known as **ANITHA CHANDRASEKAR-ANITHA SELVAM**, vide affidavit dated 06.02.2026, sworn to before K. Mathialagan, Advocate & Notary, Hosur.

AFFIDAVIT
I, **Kumari J**, D/o. Javaregowda KK, W/o. Rajkumar B, aged about 43 years, No. 73, 2nd Main, 9th Cross, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **Kumari J** to **MOHANAKUMARI J,** vide affidavit dated 29.01.2026, sworn to before Vani G.K., Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VANDANA KUMARI,** aged about 28 years, W/o. Preetham Nagaraj, residing at No. 38, 4th Cross, C.M. Halli, MSRIT Post, Bengaluru-560054, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **VANDANA KUMARI** to **VANDANA PREETHAM,** vide affidavit dated 07.02.2026, sworn to before Mamatha .N.K, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

DOCUMENT LOST
10th ICSE MARKS CARD MISSING No.8493523 Rajashree.S Passed the year-2024-25 Holy Angel's High School Bangalore.
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CHANGE OF NAME
I, VISHNU GOND, Aged about 34 years, S/o. Nagappa Gond, Residing at No.707, NGM Nivasa, 12th A Cross, J.P.Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru-560078, Karnataka, India, that I have changed my name from VISHNU NAGAPPA GONDA (Old Name) to VISHNU GOND (New Name), henceforth I shall be known and called as VISHNU GOND (New Name) only for all purpose, vide Affidavit dated : 10/01/2026, before Notary MOHAMMED HUSSAIN K, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **HARSHIL JAIN (new name)** S/o Naresh Jain aged about 17 years residing at No.10,G4,Shankeshwara Emarald, Bull Temple 'A' Cross Chamarajpet Bangalore-560018. In my Aadhar card and some other documents my name is entered as **HARSHIL.** In future for all official purposes my name will be **HARSHIL JAIN** only vide affidavit dt 04-02-2026 and Sworn before Advocate and Notary K.C. Gowthami, Bangalore, INDIA.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MEENA JAIN (New name) W/o. Naresh Jain aged about 39 years residing at No.10,G4, Shankeshwara Emarald, Bull Temple 'A' Cross Chamarajpet Bangalore-560018. In my Aadhar card and some other documents my name is entered as **MEENA NARESH JAIN.** In future for all official purposes my name Will be **MEENA JAIN** only vide affidavit dt 04-02-2026 and Sworn before advocate and Notary K.C.Gowthami, Bangalore, INDIA.

DECLARATION
I, **SINIJA DAMODARAN** D/o Damodaran A.K., aged about 37 years, R/at No.GBJ 210, 8th Cross, HAL New Township, Marathahalli Post, Bengaluru - 560037 do hereby state that both the names **SINIJA DAMODARAN** and **SINIJA D.** are my names and belongs to me only. vide affidavit dated 05/02/2026, sworn to before notary Vani G.K., Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I. NAYAR YOGESHKUMAR SHIVSHANKAR, S/o. Shivshankar, Aged about 59 Years, Residing at: No. 310B Block, Ram Lake View Meadows, 4th Main, Vinayak Nagar, Bangalore North, PO A F Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore, Karnataka 560063. I declare that wrongly mentioned in my name as **YOGESH S NAIR** in my DL but my correct name is **NAYAR YOGESHKUMAR SHIVSHANKAR** according to my SSLC marks card. So, please correct my name in my DL, vide affidavit dated 7/2/2026 sworn to before S R Ravikumar Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, RAJENDRA JAIN, S/o. Shantilal Jain, aged about 45 years residing at No.53/1, Roopa Rajath, 4th Cross, Hosahalli, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 040, have changed our minor daughter's name from **PALAK JAIN** to **PRERANA JAIN,** vide affidavit dated 2/2/2026 sworn to before V Srinivasa Reddy Advocate and Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AYESHA BHANDIGADI ASADULLA NYMULLA, D/o. MOHAMMED MAZHAR HUSSAIN, W/o. Bhandigadi Asadulla NYMULLA, Aged about 59 years (01.05.1967), At present residing at No. 2610, 32nd E Cross, 4th T Block Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560041, have change my name from **BIBI AIYSHA SIDDIQUA to AYESHA BHANDIGADI ASADULLA NYMULLA.** vide affidavit dated 29/01/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary, S. VijayaKumar, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K CHINNAMMADU wife of Service No: 8038369M Rank: Naik Name: KANDIBORRA APPALA NAIDU residing at Vill Akkivaram, Po: Akkivaram, Teh: Denkada, Dist: Vizianagaram, State: Andhra Pradesh 535216 have change my name from **K CHINNAMMADU to KANDIBORRA CHINNAMMADU** vide affidavit dated 07/02/2026, sworn before Advocate and Notary, Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **PREETAM SAWADATTI** S/o Pranesh Sawadatti, aged about 42 years, residing at Innova Residency, Flat No. 5/11, 2nd Floor, 2nd Main, Hariram Ayeeldas Layout, Govindarajnagar, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560 040, hereby declare that the names **PREETAM SAWADATTI and PREETAM PRANESH SAWADATTI** refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as **PREETAM PRANESH SAWADATTI** for all purposes as per affidavit dated 05.02.2026 sworn before Notary Deepa .M, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **SHIVANAND JIGAJINNI,** aged 46 years, S/o Late. Murigeppa, residing at: No.815, 1st Phase, 8th Main, 4th Stage BEML Layout, Near Prakruti/Crazy Park, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098. hereby declare that the names **SHIVANAND JIGAJINNI** AND **SHIVANAND MURIGEPPA JIGAJINNI** refer to one and the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as **SHIVANAND JIGAJINNI** for all purposes as per affidavit dated 07/02/2026 sworn before Notary S.R. Thulasikrishna, Bangalore.

AFFIDAVIT
I, FARZANA BANU, Aged about 40 years, W/o.Riyaz Shariff, Residing at No.144/1, Armstrong Road, Bharathinagar, HKP Road, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560051, do hereby solemnly affirm and state on oath as under: I state that my name is mentioned as **"FARZANA BANU M"** in the SSLC Marks Card bearing Registration No.20030865674 issued by Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board. Whereas, my correct name is **"FARZANA BANU"** as per my Aadhaar Card No.2092 4242 5251 and PAN Card No. AASPF3138N. Hence, my name shall be spelt as **"FARZANA BANU"** in all the records in future. Vide affidavit Dated 07/02/2026 sworn to before Notary L.Gopalakrishna, Bangalore.

AMRITA AIYER TO STAR OPPOSITE CHIKKANNA IN *JODETTU*

The Sudhakar S Raj directorial, currently on floors, marks the actor's Kannada debut

CE FEATURES

AS updates on the Kannada debut of *Hanuman* fame actor Amrita Aiyer, opposite Golden Star Ganesh and directed by Arasu Anthare, have gone dry, she has signed another Kannada film. The new project will have Amrita sharing screen space with Chikkanna in the upcoming film *Jodettu*.

The film marks the directorial debut of cinematographer Sudhakar S Raj, who is known for his work in *Chowka*, *Kaatera*, *Roberrt* and *The Devil*. The project went on floors on January 5 and is currently progressing at a steady pace. *CE* has learnt that Amrita Aiyer has already shot a few portions of her role. With the film moving forward as planned, *Jodettu* is likely to mark the actor's Kannada debut if it reaches theatres ahead of her previously announced projects.

Set against a rural backdrop, *Jodettu* is said to explore a story rooted in village life, blending commercial elements with humour and emotion. The makers are currently filming key sequences in interior locations to capture the authenticity of the setting.

K Somashekar is producing the film under his Akash Enterprises banner. The technical crew includes music composer V Harikrishna, with dialogues for the film penned by Maasti, Rajasekhar, and Raghu Niduvalli, while Mohan B Kere has been roped in to handle the production design.

Apart from Amrita Aiyer and Chikkanna, the film will also feature popular Telugu actor Sunil in a prominent role. Sunil, known for his versatility in comic and character-driven performances, is expected to join the sets soon to begin shooting his portions. With a career spanning over two decades, this film marks the Kannada debut of the *Jailer* actor. The team is planning an extensive shooting schedule.

Returning to films is like homecoming: Sangita Madhavan

Yaare Neenu Chaluve actor returns to Kannada cinema, joining director Kiran Vishwanath's new film

CE FEATURES

COMEBACKS in cinema are nostalgic, but for actor Sangita Madhavan, her return to Kannada feels less like coming home. The *Yaare Neenu Chaluve* actor, who captured hearts with her performances in, is ready to reconnect with audiences after a long break. She is stepping into a project that combines freshness with commercial appeal.

A new creative team is orchestrating Sangita's return, bringing her on board for a significant role. The team is led by debut director Kiran Vishwanath, who is known to be close to Kichcha Sudeep. Kiran has worked behind the scenes as a co-director on films like Ranna and Victory. Now, he steps into the spotlight with his first directorial project, and Sangita becomes one of the film's key emotional anchors.

Sangita will portray Bhagyya, a character that adds emotional depth to the story as the male lead's mother. For her, the choice to take on this role was based on instinct and conviction. "I am glad to have returned. When Gowree Arts approached me, I felt they were a passionate banner with a clear vision and confidence," she says, reflecting on what attracted her to the project.

What sealed the deal for her was her interaction with the director and the script. "Kiran came across as an energetic person. The content felt fresh, commercial, and emotionally engaging. I had a strong sense that this was something I wanted to be part of," she adds.

For Sangita, Bhagyya is full of warmth and relatability. "Bhagyya is a very likeable character. I thought, why not give it a shot? I felt honesty and passion from the team. I genuinely enjoy working with this team," she remarks.

The film has already generated interest, especially with the makers introducing Elumale actor Priyanka Achar as the female lead. Backed by the Gowree Arts banner, this film marks the production house's first venture. The project aims to strike a balance between emotional storytelling and mainstream sensibilities.

Sangita Madhavan

Ayushmann-Wamiqa-Sara film pushed to May

CE FEATURES

THE release date of *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do*, starring Ayushmann Khurrana, Wamiqa Gabbi and Sara Ali Khan, has been pushed. The film was earlier scheduled to release on March 4. The makers have now revealed that the film will hit the theatres on May 15.

Billed as a "laughter-packed entertainer," the film is a follow-up to 2019's Pati Patni Aur Woh, which was a remake of Sanjeev Kumar-Vidya Sinha's 1978 movie. The upcoming film is directed by Mudassar Aziz, who also helmed the first part, starring Kartik Aaryan, Bhumi Pednekar, and Ananya Panday. The sequel will also have Rakul Preet Singh. *Pati Patni Aur Woh Do* is backed by T-Series and BR Studios.

Harman Baweja reunites with *Arati Kadav*

CE FEATURES

ACTOR-screenwriter Harman Baweja and director Arati Kadav, who previously collaborated on the 2025 film *Mrs*, are now coming together for another film. Arati Kadav confirmed the same on her social media page. Incidentally, the confirmation arrives on the day when the Sanya Malhotra-starrer completes one year of its streaming premiere. Besides co-producing the film, Harman was also credited as a co-writer for *Mrs*.

Besides Mrs, Arati had previously directed *Cargo*. Meanwhile, Baweja Studios has many projects in the pipeline for 2026 release, including *Captain India* and *Boy from Andaman*. They were also the producers for the Yami Gautam-starrer *Haq*.

A thoughtful romance about love and timing

A SHARADHAA

CINEMA often presents love as fulfilment and an end in itself. *Sukhibhava* approaches it with caution. Rajesh Naidu's romantic drama views relationships through the lens of emotional mindspace. The film suggests that affection alone does not guarantee a sustained connection, as individuals are still negotiating their own emotional scars.

Vaibhav (Mahendraa Kumar) is affected by a loss. Rather than just serving as a drama device, his mother's demise also quietly impacts his choices. His distant ties with his father add another layer to his emotional withdrawal. Growing up with strict moral guidance, Vaibhav paints a black-and-white picture of rights and wrongs. The film takes him on a journey that proves otherwise.

SUKHIBHAVA
Director: Rajesh Naidu
Cast: Mahendraa Kumar, Sushmitha Nayak and Vihanshi Hegde
RATING 2.5/5

The film approaches young love with unusual restraint. Vaibhav's feelings for Tara (Sushmitha Nayak) don't fall under filmy romance but a jolt that results in an emotional awakening. Hardened by grief, for him, rejection is not the end of the world. The film suggests that early heartbreak seldom fades; it simply becomes part of one's emotional memory.

When Urvi (Vihanshi Hegde) enters Vaibhav's life, the film briefly lets emotional comfort emerge. Their relationship feels warm and full of potential, but is also fragile. The narrative gradually reveals how past relationships, insecurities, and unresolved trauma influence current choices. T Sushmitha Nayakara's reappearance later adds another emotional layer, not as a romantic twist but as a reflection on how life often reshapes relationships based on maturity rather than desire.

Rajesh Naidu keeps the storytelling grounded and avoids excessive drama. The film thrives on observation and not exposition. Also, repeatedly harping on the same emotional beats causes pacing issues in the film. At times, the writing relies heavily on dialogue to convey feelings, which limits moments that could have been shown visually.

Mahendraa delivers a sincere performance. His portrayal captures Vaibhav's hesitation and vulnerability subtly rather than dramatically. Sushmitha Nayak brings stability and balance to Tara, making her presence feel believable. Vihanshi Hegde adds warmth to her role, though the character required more. Ravishanker Gowda gives a surprisingly measured performance that adds emotional weight.

The film maintains a gentle visual tone, with cinematography that supports its reflective mood. The songs blend seamlessly into the narrative, helping maintain its emotional flow without disrupting the story.

Sukhibhava doesn't make grand romantic statements. It leans towards emotional realism, exploring how love is affected by timing, healing, and personal growth. The film's strength lies in its sincerity, even as it navigates familiar emotional space, and more or less suggests that love is less about finding the right person and more about recognising them when they stand in front of us.

Anthony Mackie, Sharon Stone join David Mamet film

CE FEATURES

LEGENDARY playwright, screenwriter and director David Mamet is set to turn Speed the Plow, his play that won a Tony Award, into a feature film. Directed by Mamet from his own screenplay, the film stars Anthony Mackie, Sharon Stone, Emily Alyn Lind, and Ben Mendelsohn in important roles.

Mamet has long been attempting to adapt the play, a Hollywood satire, for the screen. Set at a fictional production house named American Prestige Studios, the film follows a junior executive named Bob Grant (Anthony Mackie), who receives the production head's role. While Grant is not cut out for the job, he finds help from a time server at the studio (Ben Mendelsohn), one of its temporary employees (Emily Alyn Lind), and a movie star (Sharon Stone).

Commentary on a broken system

A SHARADHAA

JUDICIAL custody is no longer seen as a place for correction. People are now discussing it as a haven of comfort, access, and influence. *JC: The University* offers a bold exploration of the judicial system and its follies. It doesn't just expose the issue. It raises a more concerning question: What if the system not only tolerates crime but also teaches it quietly?

Director Chethan Jayram supports this argument with real incidents from Parappana Agrahara and other prisons that often make headlines. His claim is clear. The crimes within the prison are more severe than in the external world. Names like A-Z, Twins, Kavala, and Raaka serve as labels rather than representing individuals. This is a raw, unflinching film where bloodshed and murder are routine rather than sensational.

One of the film's more alarming propositions is its suggestion that the prison is being transformed into an economic zone. With nearly 6,500 inmates, here, money and influence determine safety, comfort, and survival. The brazenness of irregularities inside a prison is dubbed 'normal'.

From the start, the film shows both what has happened and what will happen. News of the murder of a major underworld figure spreads quickly through Bengaluru's criminal circles before the narrative settles into the present. When violence erupts inside, reactions become divided. Some grieve, and some celebrate. This divide becomes the film's moral core. The line between right and wrong blurs slowly. Authority does not vanish inside prison; it shifts hands. Kumari Anna's control over his territory reflects this internal hierarchy, turning *JC* into a school without teachers, where survival is the only lesson.

JC
Director: Chethan Jayram
Cast: Surya Prakhyath, Rangayana Raghu, Thriller Manju and Bhavana S Reddy
RATING 3/5

At the centre of this system is Madhusudhan, known as Maddy (Surya Prakhyath), a college student living a quiet campus life. He has never imagined Bengaluru's underworld. Chance and love lead him behind bars, where he loses choice and is forced into a living hell. The film is less focused on the act that lands him there and more on what prison gradually makes of him.

JC clearly understands escalation. Nothing remains minor. A stolen phone, a bruised ego, a moment of anger—every action is an escalation. Violence brews gradually. The film argues that prison does not reduce aggression but rather intensifies it.

Amid the brutality, brief emotional moments appear. Memories of love, family, and ordinary life emerge like fading photographs. A father's simple wish for his son to live honestly, even with little, cuts through the chaos. These moments do not soften the narrative. They emphasise the loss by revealing what institutional routine gradually erases.

The slogan painted on the prison wall, claiming this is a reform home, feels like pathetic irony. *JC* asks if prisons have stopped being a turning point to a point of no return. Influence undercuts the reformative nature of the prison.

Narratively, the film presents a strong idea but struggles with momentum. The first half is confident, moving across timelines with clarity. The interval raises expectations. The second half drags, repeating emotional moments instead of developing them. A tighter edit could have improved the narration.

Karthik's cinematography benefits from filming in real prison locations, giving the movie a raw authenticity. The action stays grounded. The background score lacks consistency. The film finds its strongest voice in Masti's raw dialogues, which reflect the language of the history-sheeters.

Surya Prakhyath completely sheds his romantic image. In *JC*, he embraces violence. A single blow to his cheek becomes the turning point that forces him onto a path he never expected. From there, his descent is steady. Once a lover boy and a cherished son, he turns into a ruthless force, trying to adopt a more mass-focused image.

Bhavana Reddy appears pleasant but needs more development. Rangayana Raghu brings restraint and emotional depth to his role. Several actors playing antagonists, including Thriller Manju, convincingly portray their characters, although the makers could have utilised Manju better.

JC: The University, a production by Dhananajay, presents no heroes or easy villains. Its characters seem shaped by the system they inhabit. Prison here is not just a setting—it is a force that shapes behaviour. If *JC* is a university, its syllabus is deeply troubling, and its graduates are already walking free.